福本伸行

AKAGI ○ Nobuyuki Fukumoto

Kindai Mahjong Comics

第5巻

アカギ

闇に降り立った天才

狂瀾の闘牌

Kindai mahjong Comics

狂瀾の闘牌 5

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闇に降り立った天才

近代麻雀コミックス ○ 竹書房

福本伸行

アカギ

第5巻

赤木しげる

ニセアカギ

現在は川田組の代打ち。並外れた記憶力と雀力を持つ。詳細は不明。

治

アカギと同じ工場で働いていた少年。アカギに惚れ込み、ついてきた。

登場人物紹介

前巻までのあらすじ

昭和33年。生命を賭けたヤクザとの麻雀勝負に敗れつつあった南郷を助けた13歳の少年。彼こそ後に裏の麻雀界に君臨することになる赤木しげるであった。特に、盲目の雀士・市川を破った夜は、伝説と化した。しかし、直後に赤木は姿を消し、5年余りが経った…。昭和39年。伝説の夜に立ち合った不良刑事・安岡は一計を案じ、ニセの赤木を代打ちとして川田組に売り込み、成功する。ところが、川田組幹部・石川は街中で本物の赤木を目撃。川田組長は、二人の赤木の対決を画策するが、対局途中であったニセアカギと藤沢組代打ち・浦部の勝負を一瞥した赤木は浦部の方が格上だと言い放つ。果たして、予言通り浦部は、どちらかがトップをとるまで終わらない倍プッシュ勝負へと強引に持ち込んだ…!!

川田組長(左)と石川

石川は伝説の夜に居合わせた一人。ニセアカギの真贋の判定もした。

浦　部

藤沢組の代打ち。凡庸を装って倍プッシュ勝負を画策したベテラン。

目次

◉別冊近代麻雀平成6年7月号～平成7年3月号所載

第37話 渓谷 7
第38話 一時 31
第39話 素人 55
第40話 布石 79
第41話 高波 103
第42話 封殺 127
第43話 絶無 151
第44話 偶機 175
第45話 容量 199

KU KU ...
KU KU KU ...
THAT 1000 IS A THORNY PATH...
BUT BRO...
IF YOU GET 1000 POINTS, YOU WIN ...
YES...
PUT YOUR FOOT IN!
YOU CAN'T EVEN
KEH...
...
KU KU KU ...
KU KU KU ...

CHAPTER 37: DALE

第37話 渓谷

THE HAND'S LIMIT

PLE-ASE!

A FAST HAND!

WHO-EVER'S FAST-ER'LL WIN!

BUT I MUST FOCUS ON SPEED

IT COMES DOWN TO...

THE HAND DOESN'T MATTER

...

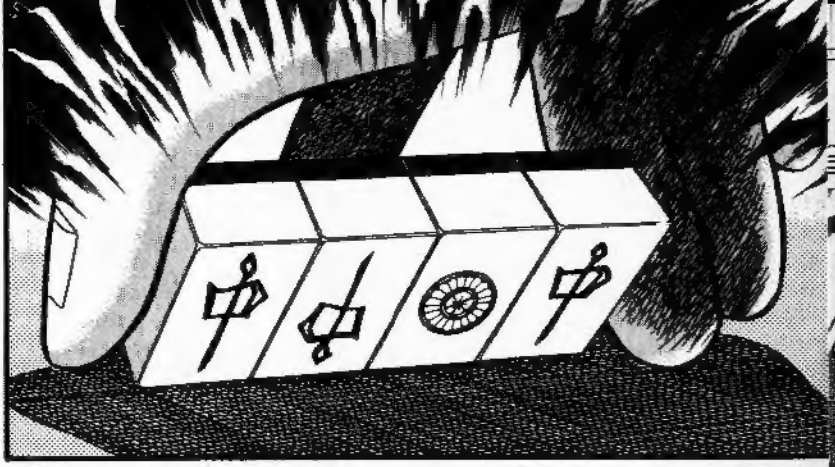
THAT THORNY PATH IS BULL-SHIT!

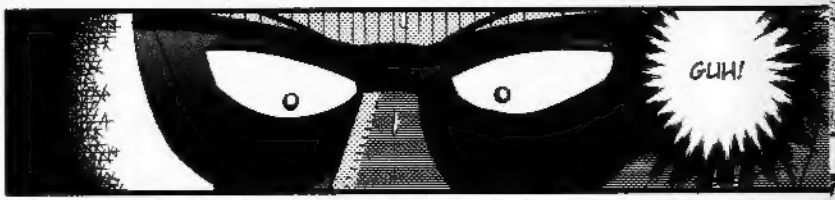
IT'S JUST ONE ROUND

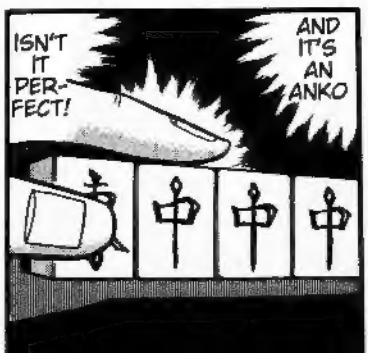
BULL-SHIT!

HURRY!

IT'S CRITICAL TO WRAP THIS UP







THE LAST TRUMP!

TOO BAD FOR YOU!
THIS IS MY FATE!
MY DESTINY TO LIVE!
...
URABE IS WRONG!
10TH TURN
CHI!
I GOT IT!
THE SHAPE DOESN'T MATTER
I OPENED FIRST!

FAKE AKAGI

TENPAI!

CHI

RIICHI!

KU KU KU ...

EH?

I'VE GOT URABE!

BUT I'VE REACHED IT!

THE WAIT IS BAD

SINGL 6 SO WAIT.

THAT WAS LAUGH-ABLE!

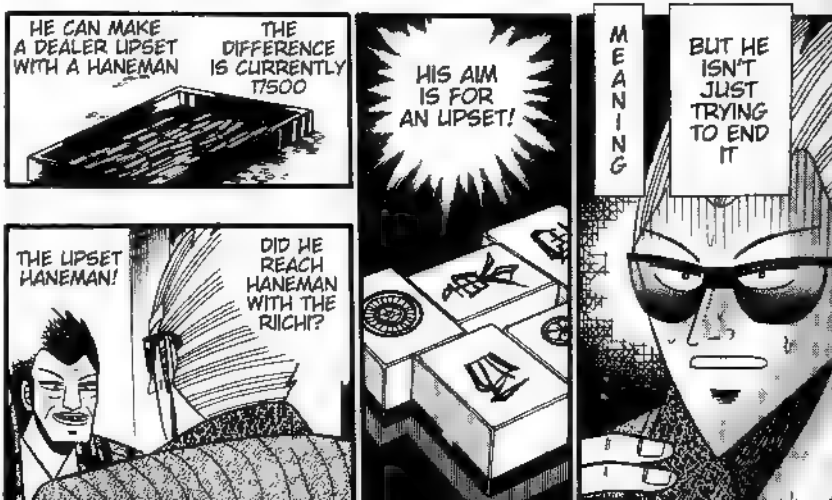
WHA THOR PAT

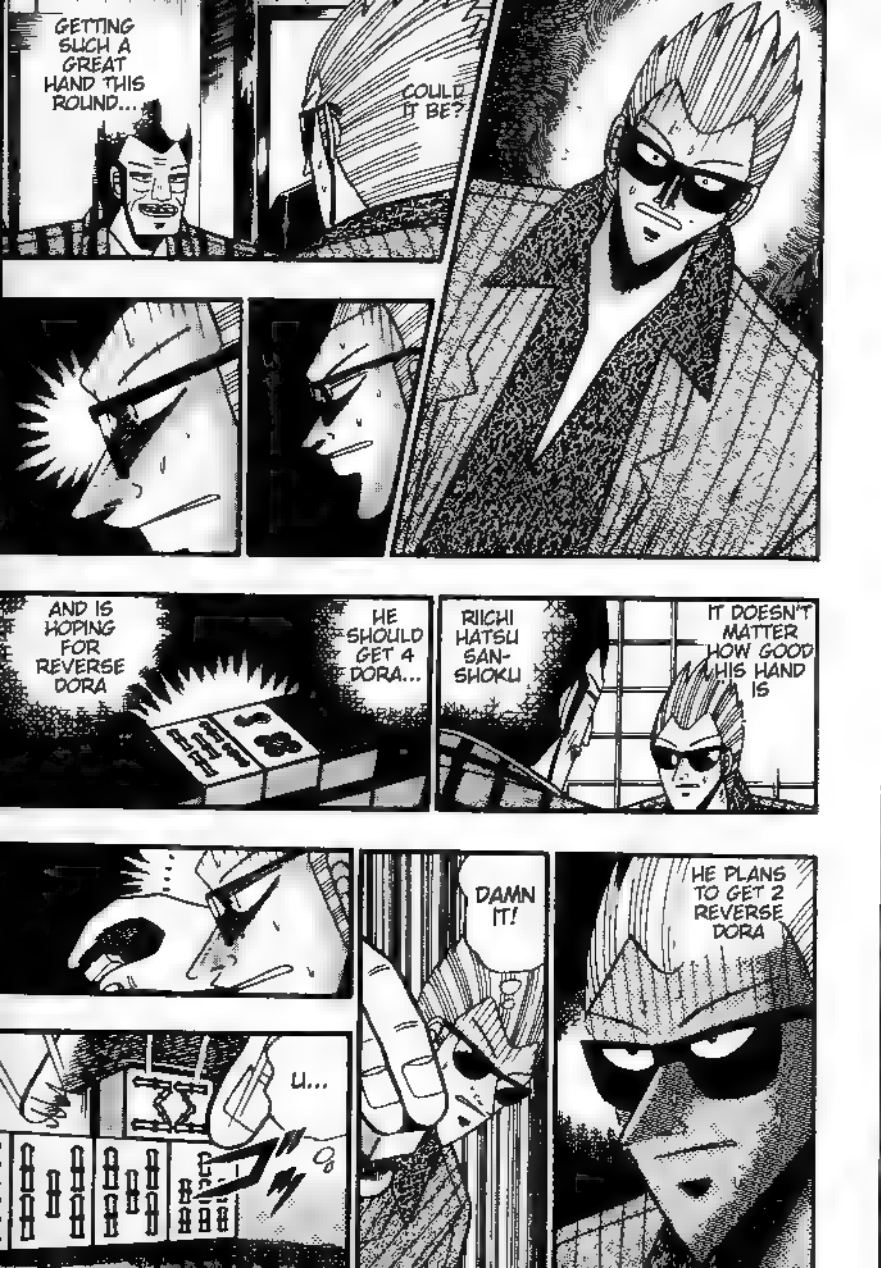
THIS GUY'S AIM IS BRING THE NEXT HANCHAN
BY SUPPORTING THE 2ND PLACE, OTA
WHAT'S WITH THE RIICHI?
ざわ…
…
ざわ…
AND EXTENDING THE MATCH WITH HIS OWN WIN
HE'S GIVING UP ON OTA
YET HE TOOK UP THE RIICHI
IF HE DECLARES A RIICHI, HE CAN'T DO THAT
THAT'S LOGICAL …
HE COULD ONLY DO THAT
HE PROBABLY NEEDED A HAN
HIS HAND IS SAFE…
…MEANING…
KAN!
BUT NEXT TURN

EH?
HIDDEN HATSU KAN!
URABE EXCEEDS FAKE AKAGI'S EXPECT-ATIONS!
IMPOSSIBLE!

WHY DID HE
HAVING A HATSU TRIPLET IN HIS HAND
WHY?
A HIDDEN HATSU KAN
WHY?

COULD IT BE
HOW HE'S TRYING TO STOP ME?
WAIT...
THE HATSU HAS ALREADY GIVEN HIM THE 1 HAN...
THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THAT
DECLARE A RIICHI HERE?


HE CAN MAKE A DEALER UPSET WITH A HANEMAN
THE DIFFERENCE IS CURRENTLY 17500
THE UPSET HANEMAN!
DID HE REACH HANEMAN WITH THE RIICHI?
HIS AIM IS FOR AN UPSET!
MEANING
BUT HE ISN'T JUST TRYING TO END IT


GETTING SUCH A GREAT HAND THIS ROUND...
COULD IT BE?
AND IS HOPING FOR REVERSE DORA
HE SHOULD GET 4 DORA...
RIICHI HATSU SAN-SHOKU
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW GOOD HIS HAND IS
U...
DAMN IT!
HE PLANS TO GET 2 REVERSE DORA

FAKE AKAGI

DRAWS 8 SOU!

CHI

THE 5 SOU PASSES

6 SOU

6, 9 SOU

FAKE AKAGI COULD'VE CHANGED INTO A RYANMEN WAIT

URABE CUTS IT

U...!

BUT NEXT TURN

EH?

.....

DAMN IT...

IT WAS NATURAL TO END UP THAT WAY BUT

THAT MISS PROVED TO BE FATAL

SWITCHING TO A RYANMEN WAIT

NORM-ALLY I'D EASILY CUT THE 5 SOU

8 SOU ...

I'M WAITING FOR THE MIDDLE 6 SOU

...IT CAN'T BE HE-LPED

FAKE AKAGI CHOOSES THE SINGLE WAIT

8 SOU IS MORE PRACT-ICAL

IS A BIT BAD AGAINST URABE

BUT TH 5 SOU

COMPLETELY OUT OF FAKE AKAGI'S FORESIGHT

A 9 SOU!

CHI

I WAS ATTACKED THIS ROUND

I'VE BECOME DESPERATE

CALM DOWN...

BUT

FUCK ...

BUT NEXT TURN...

HERE I'D GO WITH 5 SOU

THROW-ING AWAY THE 6 SOU!

FAKE AKAGI WAITS ON FURITEN 8 SOU

THIS 9 SOU IS DANG-EROUS

I'D LIKE TO QUICKLY CUT THE 9 SOU BUT

SO IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE

WHAT THE!

AND FORCED THE 5 SOU OUT

IF I'D KEPT THE 8 SOU

...

I'D HAVE WON!

I'D HAVE WON WITH THIS!

THIS TIME IT'S THE 6 SOU!

ONCE AGAIN, HE MISSED!

CHI

EH?

ざわ・・・

FAKE AKAGI FURITEN 2, 5, 8 SOU

ざわ

U...

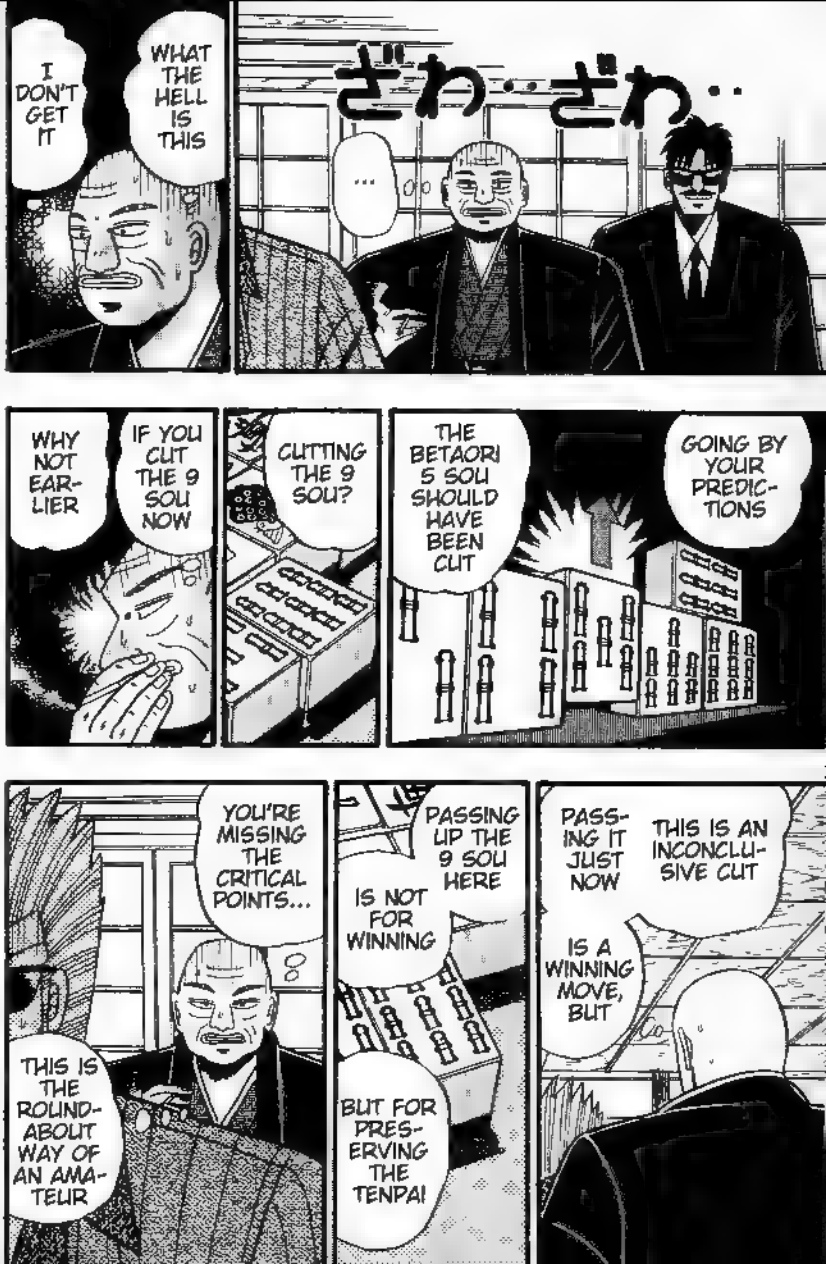
...

...

WHAT THE HECK IS HE DOING...

ざわ

GUH


I DON'T GET IT
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS
ざわ..ざわ..
...
WHY NOT EARLIER
IF YOU CUT THE 9 SOU NOW
CUTTING THE 9 SOU?
THE BETAORI 5 SOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN CUT
GOING BY YOUR PREDICTIONS
YOU'RE MISSING THE CRITICAL POINTS...
THIS IS THE ROUNDABOUT WAY OF AN AMATEUR
PASSING UP THE 9 SOU HERE IS NOT FOR WINNING
BUT FOR PRESERVING THE TENPAI
PASSING IT JUST NOW IS A WINNING MOVE, BUT
THIS IS AN INCONCLUSIVE CUT

NEXT TURN
CON-FUSION!
7 PIN!
FAKE AKAGI DRAWS A RISKY TILE
THE REST TUM-BLES!
ONCE IT BEGINS
AND DIS-MANTLES HIS TEN-PAI!
HE CAN'T PASS IT
...
HE WAS NOT SUPPORTED BY DETER-MINATION...
HIS HAND...
AS IF REFLECTING THE STATE OF HIS MIND
A FEW TURNS LATER

BREAKS DOWN!

CHI

HE COULD RELAX SINCE URABE'S HANEMAN DID NOT MANIFEST

BUT UNCONCERNED,

FAKE AKAGI WAS RELIEVED

FAKE AKAGI RAN AWAY FROM VICTORY

ざわ・ざわ・

AT THAT TIME, URABE'S HAND

HE'D SUFFER IMMENSE REGRET

IF HE SAW URABE'S HAND

YES

AS I THOUGHT, THAT BRAT AND URABE ARE LEVELS APART

KU KU ...

...

2ND PLACE OTA WINS

DURING THE MATCH

TSUMO!

ON THE OTHER HAND

THE TOP IS REVERSED!

WAS IN A MESS!

HE AVOIDED THAT

RISK AND VICTORY GO HAND IN HAND

HIS FUNDA-MENTALS ARE A MISTAKE

FAKE AKAGI IS WEAK

AS CAN BE SEEN ...

THAT WON'T WIN

RETREATED, BUT HOPED TO PLAY AROUND IT

HE RET-REAT-ED

DOESN'T THAT EXPOSE HIS OWN NOTEN?

HE HAD THE 4 HATSU BEFORE THAT

TO SERVE AS A THREAT

OF COU-RSE

FOR A KAN AFTER RIICHI

URABE WAS BLUFF-ING

MEAN-ING A NO TEN RIICHI

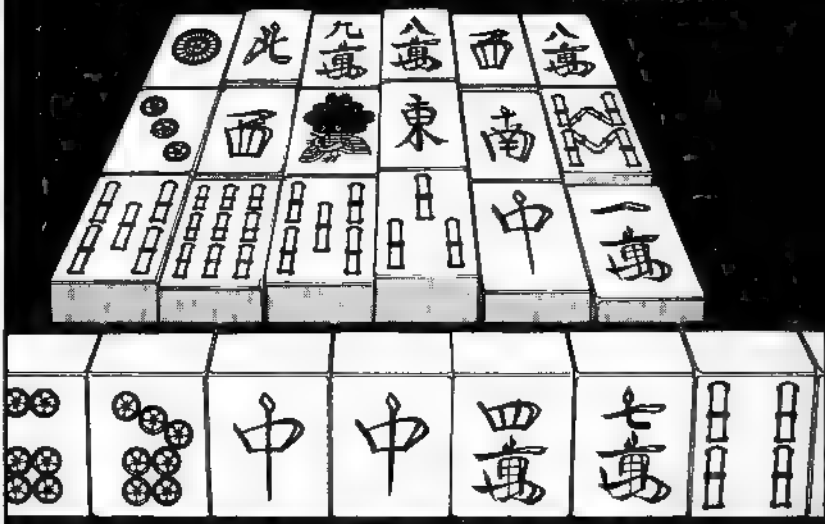
ON THE OTHER HAND

BOLD MAH-JONG

IT WAS STRONG-HANDED AND SELF-SACRI-FICING

THAT DEEP DARKNESS!

TO WIN, ONE HAS TO SURPASS THAT UNTREADABLE VALLEY



CHAPTER 38-

SHORT TERM

THE MATCH BETWEEN FAKE AKAGI AND URABE

THE WAGER HAS NOW DOUBLED FROM 16 MILLION YEN TO 32 MILLION YEN

BUT GOT TRAPPED AND GAVE UP YET ANOTHER WIN TO HIM.

LAST ROUND, FAKE AKAGI HAD EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO WIN THE GAME BACK FROM URABE

URABE WILL TRY AND TAKE THE WHOLE WAGER BACK IN THIS HANCHAN

YOU UNDER-STAND, DON'T YOU?

.....

Oo

I KNOW

THAT URABE IS STILL TRYING TO BRING THE GAME TO A DRAW

YOU CAN'T THINK FOR A MO-MENT

HE IS GOING TO END IT HERE

AND YOU LET HIM SLIP AWAY ONCE AGAIN, BUT

LAST ROUND WAS QUITE DANGE-ROUS

CHAPTER 38 - SHORT TERM

第38話 一時

SOMETHING CRUCIAL FOR A GAMBLER

BUT WHAT IS IT..?

THIS MAN IS MISSING SOMETHING VITALLY IMPORTANT

WHAT IS IT

HE'S M.S-SING SOME-THING

FOR A GAMBLER THE MOST IMPORTANT ATTRIBUTE TO HAVE IS DE-SIRE..!

DESIRE...

BUT I CAN FEEL IT!

I STILL HAVE YET TO SEE IT CLEARLY

THINGS THAT I'M NOT QUITE UNDER-STANDING

AND MORE AND MORE THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN H.S FAVOR

EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW QUITE HOW

.....

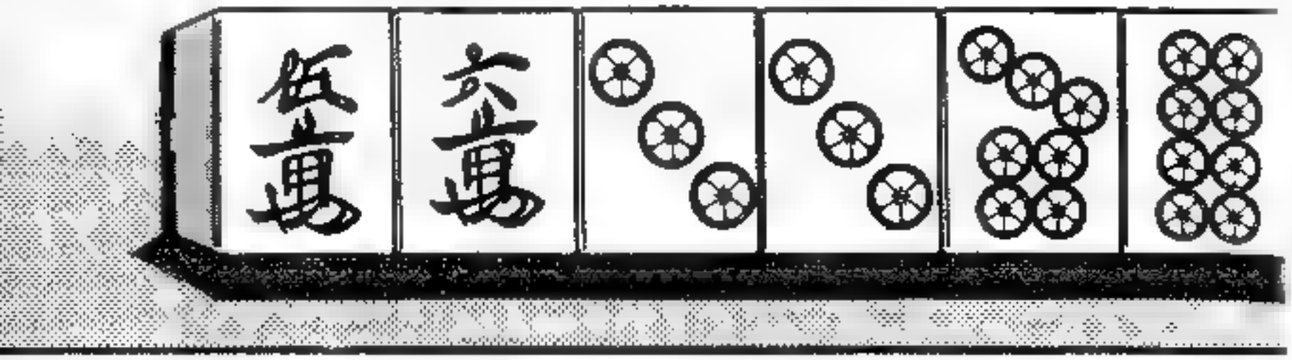
I'LL PROTECT THIS MONEY FROM THE LIKES OF H.M!

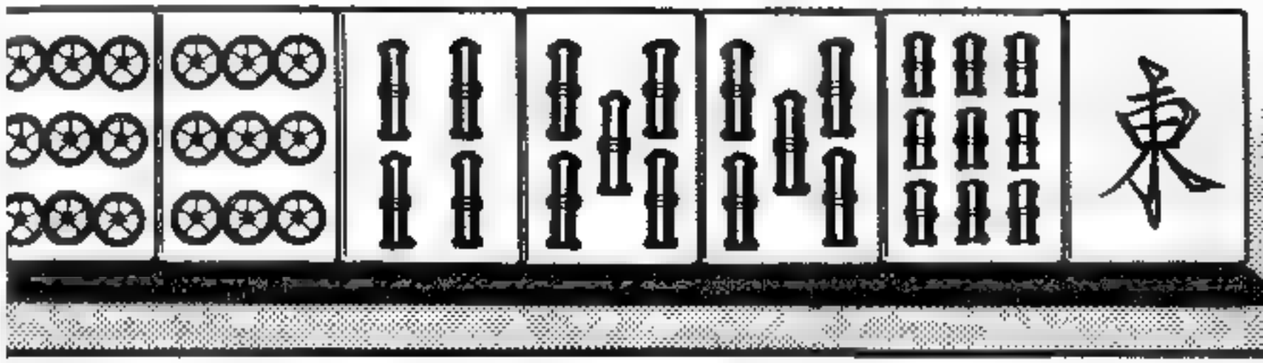
HE'LL TAKE THE WHOLE 32 MILLION IN THIS HANCHAN, HUH THE GAME HE'LL WIN IN

32 MILLION EQUATES TO 320 MILLION IN MODERN TIMES.

FAKE AKAGI'S STARTING HAND

EAST FIRST ROUND





THERE'S NO PROBLEM WITH HIS SENSE IN THAT WAY

WITHOUT HESITATION, HE'S TAKING THE SHORTEST PATH TO COMPLETION

VERY CONTROLLED

HIS CUTS ARE ADEQUATE

PRETTY NICE STARTING HAND..

NINTH HAND.

HIS PATH TO VICTORY IS BLOCKED BY SOMETHING

THERE'S STILL SOMETHING MISSING..

BUT.

WHEN A HEAVY WAGER IS PUT ON A SINGLE HANCHAN..

GOOD DRAWS, TOO.

FAKE AKAGI

TENPAI

A DISGUISED TENPAI!

HE DOES NOT DECLARE RIICHI!

AND AFTER TAKING A LOOK AT URABE'S DISCARDS,

AND ON HIS NEXT DRAW ...

.....

HAHH

FAKE AKAGI DECIDES TO PUT HIS TENPAI IN THE TWO-SIDED EDGE WAIT FOR THE 4 AND 7 MAN!

HE MADE IT!

OR WILL IT BE THE 3-4-5 SAN SHOKU HAND ..?

NOW, WILL HE GO FOR THE PINFU MENZEN TSUMO HAND..?

TSUMO!

ざわ..

.....

700/
400.

P NFU,
MENZEN
TSUMO.

ALL RIGHT!
HE'S GOT A
BIT OF A
LEAD, NOW
!

ｱﾅﾆ

HEHE
..

ISHI-KAWA ...

YES?

I'D LIKE TO SWITCH IN THE REAL AKAG FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS MATCH ...

WOULD THAT BE POSSIBLE?

HUH ?!

WELL. I...

I GUESS I COULD DO THAT ...

BUT WHY IS THAT?

.....

THE CURRENT AKAG IS NO GOOD ...

HUH ...?

I UNDER-STAND IT NOW..

THAT MAN DOESN'T HAVE THE GUTS

HE DOESN'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO GET WINS WHEN THE IMPORTANT THING IS THE SHORT TERM RESULTS.

BUT THOSE THOUGHTS ABOUT PROBABILITY JUST AREN'T ENOUGH IN A SITUATION SUCH AS THIS

AT THE BASE, HIS THOUGHTS ARE SUPPORTED BY SUCH THINGS AS PROBABILITY, TO THE POINT OF A SPIRITUAL BELIEF

HE ONLY THINKS ABOUT THE LONG-TERM BATTLE

MM-HMM

THE SHORT TERM ..?

WHEN THE WAGER IS ALL THE WAY UP TO 32 MILLION, HE NEEDS MORE TO WORK WITH THAN JUST PROBABILITY ALONE

IT'S JUST NOT ENOUGH.. IN CASES LIKE THIS

UNDER AN INTENSE SITUATION LIKE THAT ...

IN OTHER WORDS, WHEN THE WHOLE HANCHAN IS DECIDED IN A SPACE OF 20 OR 30 MOVES, AND MOREOVER WHEN THE STAKES ARE AS HIGH AS THEY ARE NOW, AND PUT A GREAT AMOUNT OF PRESSURE ON HIM..

BUT IN REALITY,

THAT MAN IS CONFIDENT IN HIS PROBABILITY THEORY HE MEASURES THE LIKELYHOOD OF EACH AND EVERY TILE BASED ON POSITIONS OF OTHER TILES

THAT KIND OF THINKING IS WHOLY UNREASONABLE

HE NEEDS TO HAVE SOMETHING OF A SIXTH SENSE WHEN IT COMES TO WHICH TILES TO WAIT ON

SOMETHING MORE ?

IN-DEED

THE PINFU, MENZEN TSUMO HAND.

WHEN HE WON OFF THE 4-MAN ...

BEFORE HE DREW THE 4-MAN, I COULD FEEL IT COMING ON HIS NEXT DRAW... IF HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO FEEL THAT, TOO, THEN

THINK BACK TO WHAT JUST HAPPENED IN THE EAST 1ST ROUND

AS AN EXAMPLE,

NOW THAT IT'S COME TO THIS ...

IT SIMPLY WON'T DO

HE NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO KNOW WHICH TILES TO WAIT ON.

IT WOULD NOT BE THIS PINFU, MENZEN TSUMO HAND FOR 1500...

BUT RATHER A RIICHI, SAN SHOKU, MENZEN TSUMO HAND MANGAN!

IT HAD POTENTIAL TO BECOME THIS HAND!

WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT

IF WE DON'T HAVE SOME-ONE LIKE THAT ...

WE NEED THAT ABILITY RIGHT NOW

BUT THAT'S--

AH ...

.....

QUICKLY DROPPED TO A 1500 POINT HAND BEFORE HIS EYES I NEED SOMEONE BETTER THAN THAT

IN THE END A HAND THAT COULD HAVE EASILY REACHED MANGAN ...

BUT ...

THAT MAN'S FAITH IN PROBA-BILITY, HIS THOUGHTS ...

THAT IS, THE ABILITY TO GET RESULTS IN THE SHORT TERM.

TO HAVE THAT ABILITY ON OUR SIDE, AS WELL

THAT'S WHAT WE NEED AT THIS CRITICAL HOUR

THE ABILITY TO SEE THAT 4-MAN COMING

THROUGH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, HE'S THINKING ABOUT ...

GETTING 3 WINS OUT OF 10...

33 WINS OUT OF 100

PROBABILITY IS GOOD WHEN YOU'RE UP AT BAT 10 TIMES,

AND CONNECT WITH THE BALL THREE OF THOSE TIMES, ONE WOULD THINK

ARE EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE!

IT'S USE-LESS

HIS PRO-BABILITY THEORY ISN'T DOING HIM ANY GOOD RIGHT NOW.

HE'S PA-NIC-KING ..

BY HIMSELF, HE DOES NOT HOLD THE ABILITY TO GET THOSE RESULTS.

BUT HE LACKS THE CONCENTRATION TO FOCUS ON EACH GAME, ONE AT A TIME!

PEOPLE WHO USE CHANCE ARE A DIME A DOZEN.

EXCEED MERE HUMAN THOUGHT AND CONCENTRATION ...

LET THE HEAVENS GUIDE YOU TO VICTORY!

IN TIMES LIKE THESE ONE MUST RELY ON THEIR INTUITION!

THIS MATCH IS ALL ABOUT THE SHORT-TERM RESULTS...

HE COULDN'T FEEL THAT H-MAN COMING

IN ORDER TO TURN THIS GAME AROUND IN HIS FAVOR, HE WOULD HAVE TO COMPLETELY CHANGE HIS THOUGHT PATTERNS.

DURING THAT SHORT TIME, YOU CAN RELY ON NOTHING ELSE IT'S A CONCEPT FOREIGN TO THAT MAN

.....

GO WITH YOUR GUT

NOT WITH THAT ATTITUDE

HE CAN'T WIN ...

TENPAI!

BUT EVEN THOUGH HE IS...

HE'S IN TEN-PAI

HE SWITCHED OUT A 3-SOU ..

HE'S NOT GONNA DECLARE RIICHI?

HEHE ..!

HE FIGURES HE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET IT BEFORE THE END OF THE GAME

HE'S PRO'LLY BASING IT OFFA THE NUMBER'VE DRAWS REMAINING.

HEHE HE ..

GOING THIS WAY IS MUCH BETTER

I COULD GET SAN ANKOU ON MY NEXT TURN.

BUT .

IF I GO FOR THE 3-SOU, 7-PIN DOUBLE WAIT.

FAKE AKAGI IS IN TEN-PAI.

EAST 2ND ROUND, 14TH HAND

THIS TANYAO, DORA 2 HAND IS ENOUGH

IT'S UNLIKELY TO BE PLAYED ..

I NEED TO CONSIDER THAT THE 7-PIN IS THE DORA..

THIS THREE-SIDED WAIT!

IF YOU'VE GOT A HAND, WHY NOT GO FOR IT?

NIISAN

TALK ABOUT WEAK!

IT'S SO WEAK!

YOUR MAHJONG GAME IS SO WEAK!

DON'T EXPECT LUCK TO COME TO YOUR SIDE LIKE THAT EITHER!

WON'T PUT PRESSURE ON YOUR OPPO-NENT!

THAT GOODY-GOODY WAY OF PLAYING

YOU'RE GIVIN' UP ON WINNING, ALREADY?!

"OPENS" ..?

ARE OPENS COOL W TH YOU?

HEY, N ISAN ..

GET YOUR GAME ON, OR MY SUPERIOR MAHJONG GAME'LL CRUSH YOU LIKE A BUG!

さわ…

……

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, OPENS?

OPEN RIICHI, OF COURSE IT'S WORTH 2 HAN IF YOU DO IT

SIR ?

IT'S FINE

WE ALLOW THEM.

'KAY, THEN

チャ…

HEHE

THAT RIGHT!

I'LL RIICHI!

AND OPEN!

MY THREE-SIDED WAIT WON'T LOSE TO THAT!

WHAT A DUMB PLAY

THE OTHER TWO CHUN HAVE ALREADY BEEN PLAYED

SO HE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO WAIT FOR THE 3-PIN!

THAT'S JUST UNREASONABLE

KH-!

DAM-MIT!!

D

2-5-8-SOU!

WHAT'S MORE, IT'S ON A LOUSY DOUBLE WAIT, 3-PIN AND CHUN!

HE REALLY DID IT!

HE COULD HAVE GONE FOR A 2-SIDED EDGE WAIT.!

SINCE HE SWITCHED OUT THAT 5-PIN WITH HIS RIICHI,

WHAT KIND OF GAME IS THIS.

.....

HE COULD HAVE DONE THIS!

BUT THIS HAND, KEEPING THE SAN ANKOU

ALLOWS HIM TO GET MANGAN WITH HIS TSUMO

HE COULD STILL DO AN OPEN RIICHI, BRINGING IT TO 3 HAN, 40 FU, 7700 POINTS ..

IF HE'D KEPT THE EDGE WAIT...

IF SO, WHY DIDN'T HE JUST DO THAT?!

THIS GAME WILL BE ALL BUT DECIDED

IF HE COMPLETES THAT HAND

IT'S A DEALER BAIMAN HAND

.....

AND THEN, IF ANY OF HIS THREE ANKOU ARE SUPPORTED BY THE URA-DORA

WITH OPEN RIICHI AND MENZEN TSUMO ON TOP.

.....

HIS WINNING TILE

HE SENSES THAT HE WILL DRAW IT

EH ?

HE PROBABLY HAS A GOOD FEEL FOR THE TILES.

MORE-OVER

THE 3-PIN THAT WILL COMPLETE HIS HAND !

BUT, ON HIS NEXT TURN ...!

HE DIDN'T GET IPPA-TSU ...

.....

WHEW .

TSUMO!

OPEN RIICHI, MENZEN TSUMO, SAN AN KOU... MANGAN!

DORA 3 MAKES IT A BAIMAN!

WELL, WOULD'JYA LOOK AT THAT! THE URA-DORA IS ONE OF MY ANKOU

SORRY 'BOUT THAT, N ISAN.

KEHE.

.....

.....

WHAT KIND OF JOKE IS THIS, ...!

ISHI-
KAWA
..

NO
WAY
..

GET
AKAGI
IN
HERE!

WILL ONLY
DRIVE US
FURTHER
INTO THIS
HOLE!

KEEPING
HIM
PLAYING

WE
CAN'T
ACCEPT
THIS!

HE'S NO
GOOD
..

SIR!

IF THE
ENEMY HAS
POISON,
WE'LL
FIGHT BACK
WITH OUR
OWN!

CHAPTER 39 - NOVICE
第39話素人

WHERE'S AKAG?!

OH, AKAG-SAN IS JUST OUT
HE'S GETTING SOME FRESH AIR.

AKA-

HEY, AKAGI! WHERE'D YOU GO?

AKAGI ...?

AKAGI!

OUR REP PLAYER'S DONE FOR!

WE NEED YOUR STRENGTH RIGHT NOW!

AT ANY RATE COME BACK WITH ME!

I'VE BEEN LOO-KING FOR YOU!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE,?

YEAH.

GRABE'S BEAT NG YOU THAT BAD, HUH?

HMM-HM.

....

I'M BEGGING YOU AKAGI!!

IT'S TOO BAD, BUT.

RIGHT NOW, IT'S ALL THE WAY UP TO 32 MILLION!

THAT BASTARD KEPT ON INCREASING THE STAKES OVER AND OVER AGAIN!

HM-HMM.

YOU.

YOU DON'T-..?!

.....

I DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE IT

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT WE CAN RELY ON RIGHT NOW!!

AKAGI!!

THIS ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN FEEL OR NOT FEEL LIKE DOING!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU DON'T *FEEL* LIKE IT?!

IT'S 32 MILLION WE'RE TALKING ABOUT! 32 MIL!!

THIS RATE OF 32 MILLION IN 1964 EQUATES TO 320 MILLION TODAY.

WHAT ABOUT OSAMU?

KRAAM

GET HIM TO..

WHY DON'T YOU GET *HIM* TO PLAY FOR YOU?

MM-HMM.

OSAMU.. YOU MEAN THAT LITTLE FREC-KLED KID ?

OSAMU ?

.....

ISHI-KAWA-SAN

THIS ISN'T SOMETHING SOME MERE NOVICE CAN HELP WITH!!

URABE WOULD TEAR THAT KID A NEW ONE!!

HM-HMM ..

THEN FORGET IT!

NOT REALLY ?!!

NOT REALLY

THAT K D DOES HE HAVE A LOT OF EXPERIENCE OR SOME-TH NG?!

I GUESS I JUST CAN'T HELP YOU, THEN

THERE'S 32 MIL ON THE LINE, HERE' 32 MILLION!

JUST BEING "ALL RIGHT" WON'T CUT T, AKAGI!

HMM - HM - HM ...

HE M GHT JUST DO ALL RIGHT

THERE'S NO WAY!

SO HE CAN PLAY AS IF IT WERE ANY NORMAL GAME?

WHY DON'T YOU KEEP THE RATE A SECRET .

.....

.....

AKAG. ..!!

DON'T EXPECT ME TO, E THER

IF OSAMU CAN'T PLAY,

.....

I GUESS SO.

IF WE LET HIM PLAY THEN YOU WILL, TOO?!

THEN THEN AFTER HE PLAYS, YOU'RE GOOD?!

AKAGI!!

COME!

OW-
OW-
OWWW!

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN EA-TING ..?

.....

HUH? AKAG-SAN ISN'T BACK HERE YET

....

YOU'RE OUR ONLY CHOICE!

YOU'RE PLAYING FOR US!

OUR REP PLAYER GOT TAKEN DOWN...

WAIT . !

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?!

HUH ...?

.....

IN THE MATCH VERSUS URABE,

OSAMU JOINS THE FIGHT.

.....

500 GRAND, HUH

THERE'S, LIKE, 500 GRAND ON THIS GAME?

DIDN'T HE SAY ...

IT'S PRETTY MUCH HOPELESS FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME..

HAH-HAH-HAH

JUST LIKE I THOUGHT, I'M SO SCREWED

DEAD LAST ..

I CAME IN WITH ONLY 12100 POINTS LEFT..

IT'S NOT MY PROBLEM!

WELL, WHAT'S IT TO ME, YOU KNOW?

IS THIS REALLY OKAY ?

FOR ME TO BE IN THIS GAME.

.....

HE IS ALSO CURRENTLY THE DEALER.

OSAMU HAS BEEN SUBSTITUTED IN..

DURING THE EAST FOURTH ROUND

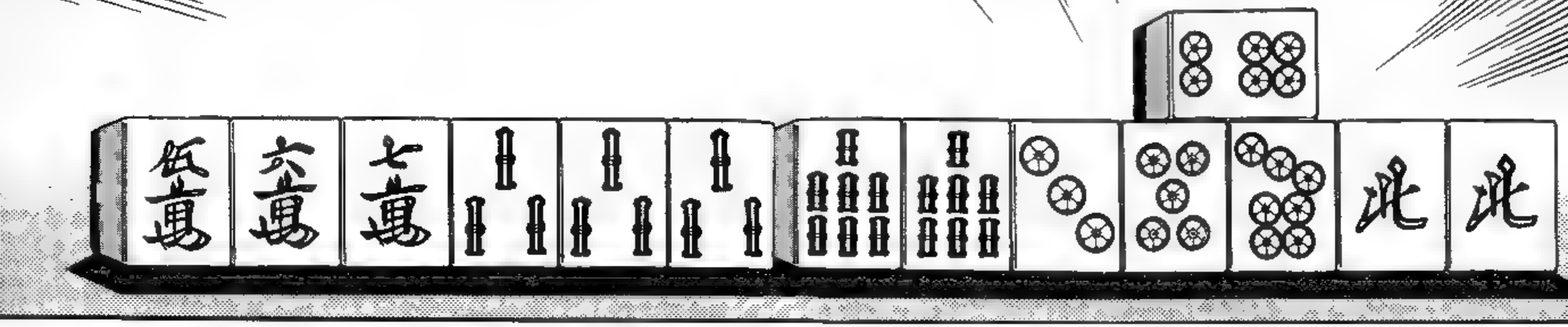
HEY, HEY ..

YOU'RE LOOKING PRETTY DOWN IN THE DUMPS ..

BUT HE ENDED UP SUFFERING A MAJOR LOSS

THE GUY WHO WENT BEFORE ME SEEMED REALLY GOOD..

OSAMU IS IN TENPAI



I'VE GOTTA PLAY IT BIG!

I'LL NEVER MAKE A COMEBACK WITH TINY HANDS LIKE THAT!

I'M GETTING REALLY GOOD DRAWS RIGHT NOW

OH, IT'S FINE.

.....

SHOULD I JUST STICK WITH THAT FOR NOW ...?

SINCE I'M THE DEALER RIGHT NOW.

IF I CUT THE 3-PIN, I'LL BE IN A DOUBLE WAIT FOR THE PEI AND 7-SOU..

GOT IT...

IN RETRO-SPECT, IT WAS A VERY WISE CHOICE

A FEW TURNS LATER ...

OSAMU CUTS THE PEI AND GOES FOR THIS TANYAO, SAN SHOKU HAND!

OHH HHH ..?

HUHHH...

I'VE GOT TO CONSI-DER THAT, TOO ..

.....

I'M 38,000 POINTS AWAY..!

I'VE ONLY GOT 12,100 POINTS RIGHT NOW

ON THE OTHER HAND ..

AND THAT URABE GUY HAS 50,100 POINTS A LOT MORE

HE IS AGAIN IN TENPAI!

I EXPECTED HIM TO RIICHI WITHOUT ANOTHER THOUGHT, BUT ..

BACK WHEN HE COULD HAVE GONE INTO A 7-SOU AND PEI DOUBLE WAIT ..

HE WAS SUPPOSED TO JUST FILL IN FOR AKAGI UNTIL HE DECIDES TO PLAY

BUT HE MIGHT NOT BE TOTALLY USELESS, AFTER ALL

HE DOES SEEM TO PLAY RATHER CALMLY,

WHEN IT COMES TO THAT SORT OF THING

CONTRARY TO WHAT YOU MIGHT THINK FROM LOOKING AT HIM

RIICHI!

THE IDEAL TANYAO, PINFU, SAN SHOKU HAND!

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S NOT BOTHERED IN THE LEAST

A PERSON WOULD NORMALLY FREEZE UP WHEN TOLD ABOUT THE 32 MILLION YEN WAGER

.....

LOOKS LIKE HE'S HOLDING HIS OWN SO FAR

TSUMO!

ERGH

4000 FROM EVERY-ONE!

RIICHI, PINFU, SAN SHOKU, MENZEN TSUMO!

MANGAN!

THE NEXT GAME IS A DRAW,

WITH THIS WIN, [redacted] GAINS THE MOMENTUM FOR A WINNING STREAK!

.....

ONE WORTH 2600 FROM EVERYONE, AND ANOTHER WORTH 2800 FROM EVERYONE!

HE COMPLETES TWO MORE HANDS,

BUT AFTERWARDS,

JUST A SHORT WHILE AGO, THE SITUATION HAD SEEMED IRREVERSIBLE...

.....

HE HAS 32,200 TO BE EXACT!

WITH THIS SET OF WINS, OSAMU'S POINTS BREAK 30,000 ...

ONLY 11200 POINTS STAND BETWEEN THEM!

WITH HIS POT OF 43400 POINTS LEFT...

.....

BUT URABE IS NOW WITHIN REACH AS FAR AS POINTS ARE CONCERNED,

さわ・さわ・

HE WILL HAVE SUCCESSFULLY MADE HIS COMEBACK!

IF HE CAN GET A MANGAN WITH THIS NEXT HAND ...

HUH ..?!

BUT EVEN THOUGH THE WAGER IS ALL THE WAY UP AT 32 MILLION

I GUESS HE WAS TAKING IT EASY BECAUSE HE CAME IN AT LAST PLACE

HE DOESN'T SEEM BOTHERED AT ALL ..!

K.O ISN'T ALL THAT BAD...!

THIS IS QUITE A SURPRISE

ヒソ：

32 MILLION ... YEN ..?

WHA ..

32 MILL.. ION ?

SO IT'S TRUE..

HE JUST DIDN'T TELL ME BECAUSE HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT AFFECT MY PLAY..

.....

BUT 32 MILLION !

I MEAN, THERE'S NO WAY I CAN TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL OF THAT MONEY.

SO THEY'LL PUT ME IN DEBT..?

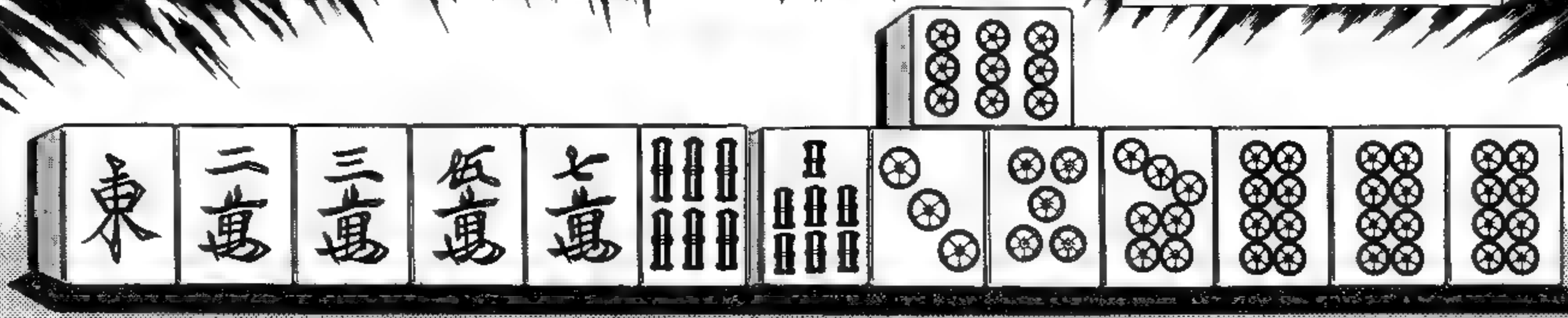
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I LOSE..?

WHAT WILL I GET ?

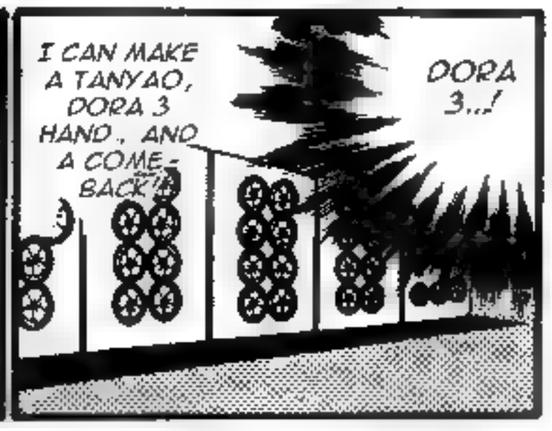
THAT'S JUST CRAZY !

THAT'S

OSAMU'S HAND



I WANT TO COMPLETE THIS HAND.


I CAN MAKE A TANYAO, DORA 3 HAND. AND A COME-BACK!
DORA 3...!

IF I CAN..

IF I DO, I'LL BE IN FIRST!

THAT'S 3.2 MILLION
GET SOMETHING LIKE 108 AS A REWARD?

WILL I..
BUT STILL.. IF I WIN

THE DORA INDICATOR IS THE 7-PIN.

.....

CHI!

JUST LIKE THAT HE CALLS TWICE AND MAKES IT TO TENPAI.

OSAMU IS LURED IN BY THE DORA INDICATOR..

HE MAKES HIS MOVE RIGHT OUT OF THE GATE!

CHI!

HE'S TRYING TO GET THE WIN AS SOON AS HE CAN

THAT CALM PLAYING STYLE HE HAD BEFORE IS ENTIRELY GONE!

HE'S GETTING OVER-EXCITED!

THIS IS BAD..

...

A CLOSED 4-PIN WAIT!

HE GOT TO TENPAI IN ONLY SIX TURNS..

...FOR THIS 4-PIN WAIT!

YES

BE-CAUSE RIGHT NOW.

LUCK IS ON YOUR SIDE!!

YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO HOW YOU WERE PLAYING BEFORE..

RUSHING WON'T GET YOU ANY-WHERE!

AND ON TOP OF THAT ..

HE CAN'T ...!

BUT HE CAN'T DRAW IT!

PLICH!

URA- BE ...

ON THE 10TH TURN ..

PLEASE PASS!

GUH ..!

KH ..!

AND THEN, ON THE 12TH TURN ...

PON!!

AND ON AN UN-NEEDED TILE FOR MY OPEN TANYAO ..!

THAT'S WHY HE DECLARED RIICHI !

HE TOTALLY BLOCKED OFF MY 4-PIN WAIT..!

THIS IS TOO

ISHI-KAWA-SAN

IT'S LIKE HE KNEW WHAT I WAS THINKING . THAT WAS WAY TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT !

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN DO THIS

OF COURSE I'D EVEN-TUALLY PLAY THE 1, 9, AND HONOR TILES !

RIICHI, HON ITSU, DORA 1... THAT'S MANGAN!

HEH-HEH-HEH

ALL THE 4-PINS I NEEDED TO COM-PLETE MY HAND

GOT WORKED INTO HIS HAND!

HE GOT ME..!

HMM-
HM-
HM
...

AKAGI-
SAN!!

THANKS A LOT FOR READING CHAPTER 38 OF AKAGI!
IF YOU ALSO READ LIAR GAME, YOU MAY BE INTERESTED
IN AN ONLINE LIAR GAME TOURNAMENT WHOSE INTERMEDIATE
STAGES ARE HAPPENING NOW AT
HTTP://CAROUSELOFLIARS.PROBOARDS.COM/INDEX.CGI! TAKE A LOOK!

MANGA BY FUKUMOTO NOBUYUKI

EDITED BY FKMTKRAZY

TRANSLATIONS TAKEN IN PART
FROM TRIAD FANSUBS' TRANSLATION OF
THE TOHAI DENSETSU AKAGI ANIME

AKAGI-SAN ...!

AKAG ..!

Y YES!

WANT TO SW TCH?

HEY, OSAMU

ざわ

.....

HMM-HM-HM

I'M COUNTING ON YOU, AKAGI!

.....

CHAPTER 40 - PREPARATION

第40話 布石

WILL FILL YOUR HEAD WITH USE-LESS THOUGHTS THAT DON'T REALLY HELP YOU W N IN ANY WAY

FOCUSING ON STUFF LIKE THAT

HMM-HM ..

YOU'RE TH NKING ABOUT ALL THAT .?

WHAT AN IDIOT YOU ARE .

PEOPLE LIKE US DON'T HAVE A CARE IN THE WORLD WHEN IT COMES TO THIS JUST S.T BACK AND PLAY THE GAME

AKAGI-SAN!!

BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER ONE B T

THE MONEY BELONGS TO SOME-ONE ELSE

YOU'RE BRINGING UP THE WAGER OF OVER 30 MIL .

LIS-TEN.

AS USUAL, YOU'RE JUST TH NKING IN TERMS OF NUMBERS.

THIS MATCH HAS 32 MILLION YEN RID NG ON IT!

WELL, I MEAN

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

BUT... ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH TH.S, AKAGI-SAN ..?

HAH-HAH!

THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT YOU CAN EVEN GET CLOSE TO WINNING . !

YOU RE START NG IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE GAME, AND CLOSE TO 30,000 PO NTS DOWN!

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND URABE IS 28,400 PO NTS.

IT'S THE SOUTH F RST ROUND .

HMM .

AT THE MOMENT, THE ONLY ONES WHO NEED TO BE WORRYING ..

JUST AS I SAID, WE DON'T NEED TO CONCERN OURSELVES WITH THAT STUFF

ARE THE YAKUZA GUYS SITTING BEHIND US.

BUT IT'S THE TRUTH.

I'M NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR HOW BIG OF A GAP THERE IS BETWEEN US

HMM-HM ..

H. HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT ?!

AND URABE.

I DON'T SEE HOW YOU CAN THINK HE HAS ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!

HMM-HM-HM

HE'S QUITE WORRIED RIGHT NOW

YEAH.

URABE ?

WAIT! BUT .. URABE HAS JUST SHORT OF A 30,000 POINT LEAD !

HUH ?

ACTUALLY, THERE S NO NEED TO EVEN TH NK ON THAT.. IT'S URABE

...

BETWEEN THE TWO OF US WHO WILL BE THE WORSE OFF IF THEY LOSE?

BUT TH NK ABOUT IT FOR A SEC- OND

THAT'S THE IMPRESSION I'D HAVE EXPECTED FROM JUST A GLANCE AT THE GAME

THAT URABE IS WAY ABOVE NEEDING TO WORRY ABOUT IT

...

THROUGH THIS WHOLE BATTLE, URABE HAS BEEN BRINGING IT TO A DRAW EVERY GAME

HE KEPT RAIS NG THE STAKES BASED ON H S OWN SELF SH DESIRES.

THAT'S WHERE H S REAL DUTY WAS BORN

HE D D THAT T ME AND TIME AGAIN

TH S STUPIDLY H GH RATE IS ALL ON H M.

N MANY GAMES TO NOW, HE COULD HAVE WON IT ALL WITH EASE.

THE PRESSURE HE'S FEEL NG RIGHT NOW MUST BE MORE, TRULY, THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THE ROOM

THERE'S NO WAY AROUND IT

BE IT IN CASH., OR H S OWN BLOOD

HE'LL HAVE TO OWN UP TO THE LOSS

WHICH MEANS ..

HE CAN'T JUST SAY SORRY FOR THE 32 MIL AND BE NO WORSE FOR WEAR OF COURSE NOT.

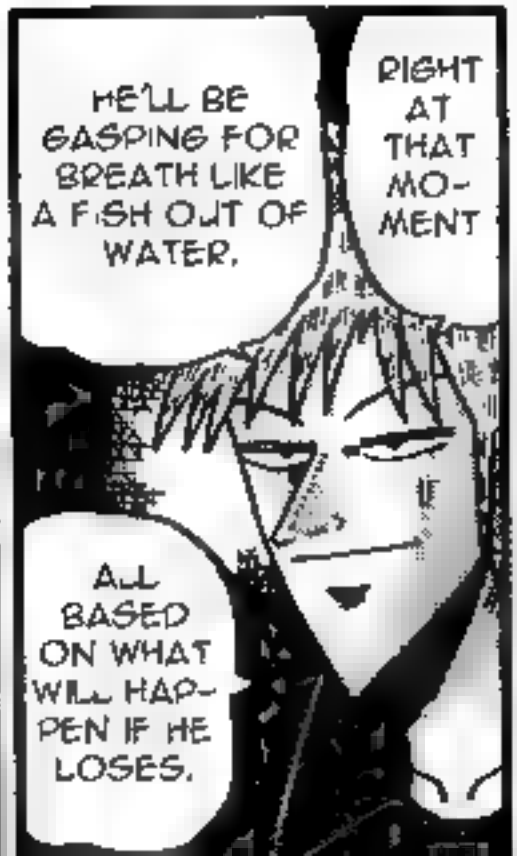
IF IT SHOULD HAPPEN THAT HE LOSES .

NO ONE WOULD LET HIM GET OFF THAT EASY

ONCE THEY RE OUT OF THE WAY, HE'LL BE EXPOSED
IN THIS GAME OF MAHJONG, THOSE 30,000 PO NTS ARE HIS LAST LINE OF DEFENSE.
WELL, YOU JUST WA T AND SEE.

HMPH .

HMM- HM- HM


HE'LL BE GASPING FOR BREATH LIKE A F.SH OJT OF WATER.
RIGHT AT THAT MO- MENT
ALL BASED ON WHAT WILL HAP- PEN IF HE LOSES.

HMM- HM .

AKAGI IS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT
I SEE ..
.....
.....
HMM-HM .

GOT COMPLE-TELY OVER-LOOKED
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING, THE MENTALITY OF THE OPPONENT .
IS WHO CARRIES THE HEA-VIEST BUR-DEN FOR LOSING
THE REAL DEFINING FACTOR OF THIS BATTLE .
WE COULD NOT LOOK BE-YOND IT.
THE ONLY THING WE COULD SEE WAS THE DIF-FERENCE IN POINTS

AKAGI SHIGERU ...!
JUST AS I THOUGHT, HE'S THE ONLY ONE WE CAN RELY ON .
AKAGI CAN REMAIN CALM!
DES-PITE THE POINTS ..
IT'S NOT OVER YET .
WHILE THE REST OF US HAVE OUR HANDS FULL!
HE CAN CALMLY PUT TO-GETHER A PLAN ..

THE MATCH RESUMES!

WHAT KIND OF GAME WILL I SEE TODAY.?

WELL, FOR THE MOMENT, IT'S NOT ABOUT GOOD OR BAD HANDS

THIS ONE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH PROMISE..

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER 5 YEARS, I'LL GET TO SEE IT FIRST-HAND.!

NOW, LET'S SEE IT..

THE SOUTH FIRST ROUND

AKAGI'S MAHJONG GAME!

.....

AKAGI'S HAND S TURNS IN

AKAGI REACHES TENPAI.

G TURNS IN ..

HE HASN'T BEEN GETTING ANY SPECIAL DRAWS

UP TO NOW

COM PLETE-LY ORDI-NARY

IT'S STILL QUITE ORDI-NARY, BUT

HE'S GOT SOME-THING HERE

THERE'S STILL A CHANCE FOR HIM TO GET TO SAN SHOKU FROM HERE

IT'S A BIT HOPE-LESS, BUT

THIS KIND OF SHAPE IS STILL POSSIBLE..

HE CAN'T CALL RIICHI YET

THERE'S STILL THE 30,000 POINT DIFFE-RENCE .

THIS HAND IS TOO WEAK FOR A GAME LIKE THIS

BUT ..

HE'S THERE ..

HUH ..?

HMM-HM ..

チャラ

RIICHI!

NOT CHANGING THIS.

HE WON'T REACH ANY FURTHER?

URGH..!

IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE THAT I'M OVERLOOKING?

OR MAYBE

THE FLOW ISN'T ALL THAT GOOD RIGHT NOW, BUT. IS HE THINKING HE'LL CATCH SOME MOMENTUM?

VERY FIRST TENPAI HE GETS?!

URABE TAKES EACH DISCARD WITH CAUTION.

CONFRONTED WITH AKAGI'S PREEMPTIVE RIICHI...

...

HIS ONLY CONCERN IS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF LOSING THE HIGH WAGER HE MADE, AND THAT ALONE.

AT THE MOMENT, ONE OR TWO TSUMOS WOULDN'T CHANGE THINGS UP TOO MUCH ...

THAT IS WHY HE STILL REMAINS CAUTIOUS.

HMM-- HM-- HM ...

THE 28,400 POINT DIFFER- ...

THINKING ABOUT THE VISIBLE SITU-ATION

THERE IS NO NEED FOR HIM TO PUSH HIMSELF

1300/ 700

TSUMO!

HE DRAWS HIS WIN-NING TILE!

HIS HAND IS COM-PLETED!

AND IN A FEW MORE ROUNDS

THE GAP BETWEEN THESE TWO MEN HAS WIDENED TO 33,800 POINTS.

HEHE HE

WITH THIS WIN, URABE'S POINT TOTAL HAS RISEN TO 55,700, WHILE AKAGI'S MOVES TO 21,900.

IN THE END, AKAGI'S RIICHI DID NOT SUC-CEED

URGH ...

AKAGI, AFTER SEVEN TURNS ...

AND THEN. IN THE NEXT ROUND, THE SOUTH SECOND ROUND...

...REACHES TENPAI!

IT'S TWO DRAWS AWAY FROM A CHANTA, SAN SHOKU HAND..

AND JUST ONE TILE AWAY FROM A 2-3-4 SAN SHOKU HAND.

WHA-..!

HMM-HM

WOULD BE GI-VING UP ON BOTH OF THOSE POSSI-BILITIES

A RII-CHI

THIS HAND WILL BE IN AN END WAIT FOR THE 3-SOU

IF HE PLAYS THE 2-PIN ..

HE'S THERE ..!

THERE ARE STILL WAYS TO FILL UP THIS HAND.

THAT IS TO SAY

YOU CAN'T CALL RIICHI ON A HAND THAT HAS YET TO TRULY TAKE SHAPE!

THE DIF-FERENCE IN POINTS IS NOW OVER 30,000

CALLING RIICHI WITH THIS HAND WOULD BE TOO BO-RING.

BUT STILL ...

RIICHI!

WH

WHY

NO WAY

WHY WOULD YOU RIICHI WITH THIS SHAPE?!

AKAGI DRAWS THE 4-SOU!!

ON HIS IPPA-TSU DRAW ...

BUT ...

YOU CAN STILL WAIT FOR THE 4-SOU, OR THE 1-MAN AND 1-PIN!!

DON'T YOU SEE THAT YOUR HAND ISN'T FINISHED YET?!

...

THE WORST DRAW!!

...

URGH ...!!

HE RIICHIS AGAIN RIGHT AFTER HE GETS TENPAI ...

WHAT THE HELL IS HE DOIN'?

THIS KID ...

I SHOULD JUST DEAL SAFE TILES FOR THE TIME BEING

LEAST 'TILL I FIGURE OUT WHAT HE'S UP TO

WELL, WHAT EVER

THAT SAID, MY TOP PRIORITY RIGHT NOW ...

SHOULD BE TO AVOID GIVIN' 'IM THE DORA, XIA

THAT'D BE AN INSTANT MANGAN

NO, NOT JUST THAT ...

THERE'S ALREADY 3 XIA PLAYED SO FAR

SO HE CAN'T BE COLLECTIN' THE DORA, XIA

SO THE DORA PASSES ..?

...

SO, IN THAT CASE ...

FROM WHAT HE'S DISCAR-DED SO FAR ...

OF COURSE ...

LOWER SAN SHOKU ..?

HE CAN RON OFF THAT TILE, THE 3-SOU...!!

THERE IT IS ...!!

THE 3-SOU LEAKS FROM HIS HAND!

AND ONCE HE RULES OUT THAT POSSI-BILITY ...

WHEN URABE SEES THE TILES AKAGI PREVI-OUSLY PLAYED, 1-PIN AND 4-SOU ...

BUT THAT SUSPI-CION OF LOWER SAN SHOKU VANI-SHES

HE IGNORES THIS 3-SOU ...!

AKAGI DOES NOT MOVE ...

BUT ...

IT CAN TURN INTO A 5200-POINT HAND!

IF HE GETS ANY URA-DORA AT ALL ...

ON URA-BE'S 15TH TURN ...

AND THEN ...

WHY AREN'T YOU TAKING IT ?!

WHY ...?

IT'S A DIRECT HIT ON URABE ...!!

EH...?

URABE IS ABLE TO WIN...!

I MAY AS WELL TAKE A LOOK-SEE AT WHAT HE'S GOT!

THE GAME'S OVER IN 3 MORE TURNS

RATHER THAN WIN OFFA THIS TRASH HAND

THE GAME ENDS ..

ENDED UP CAUSING BOTH URABE AND AKASI TO GIVE UP ON THEIR WINNING HANDS!

SOME-HOW, THIS ROUND ..

HMM-HM ..

チラッ..

ONLY 2600 POINTS.

BUT STILL, THIS HAND IS JUST A PINFU, II PEI KOU, MENZEN TSUMO..

AND I STILL WANT TO SEE.

WHERE HE'S GOIN' WITH HIS HAND!

HEH MY WINNIN' TILE..

.....

HEH-HEH-HEH!

I'M N TENPAI.

AH ...!

...

RGH ...

DAMN ...

THAT'S SOMETHING WE'D WANT TO AVOID ...

IF HE CAN SO MUCH LOOK AT IT

HEH-HEH ...

LET'S SEE THAT RIICH OF YOURS

SHOW ME, WHY DON'T YA

THAT PRE-EMPTIVE RICHI

HMM-HM ...

AWRGHT, AKAGI-HAN..

HE CAN GET SOME-THING WITH THAT DEMONIC ABILITY OF HIS!

ALL SO HE COULD GET A LOOK AT OUR HAND!

HE LET THAT WIN SLIP RIGHT BY

HE DIDN'T WIN OFF OF THAT 5-SOU HE DREW ON THE 15TH TURN!

WITH A 2-5 SOU WAIT ..

GOD DAM-MIT!

THAT BASTARD ...

HUH..?

THAT 8000 IS WELL-SPENT

IT'S FINE.

IT REALLY IS WHERE WE ARE RIGHT NOW..

I KNOW YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO SHOW HIM YOUR HAND RIGHT NOW..

BUT THE 8000-POINT NOTEN RICHI PENALTY IS JUST TOO MUCH RIGHT NOW!

ぎわ

AND AS FOR ME..

URABE GETS HIS POINTS FOR NOW

THAT FURTHERS HIS LEAD

YEP

WELL SPENT..?

EH..?

.....

A... AKAGI!!

WHA..?!

YOU GOT ME...

I'M IN NOTEN.

YOU GOT IT

THE NEXT THREE ROUNDS

?

I'M GETTING THE NEXT THREE ROUNDS IN RETURN

I'LL MOVE FOR-WARD

AND URABE WILL BE-TREAT

I'M TAKING IT TO THE END STAGES

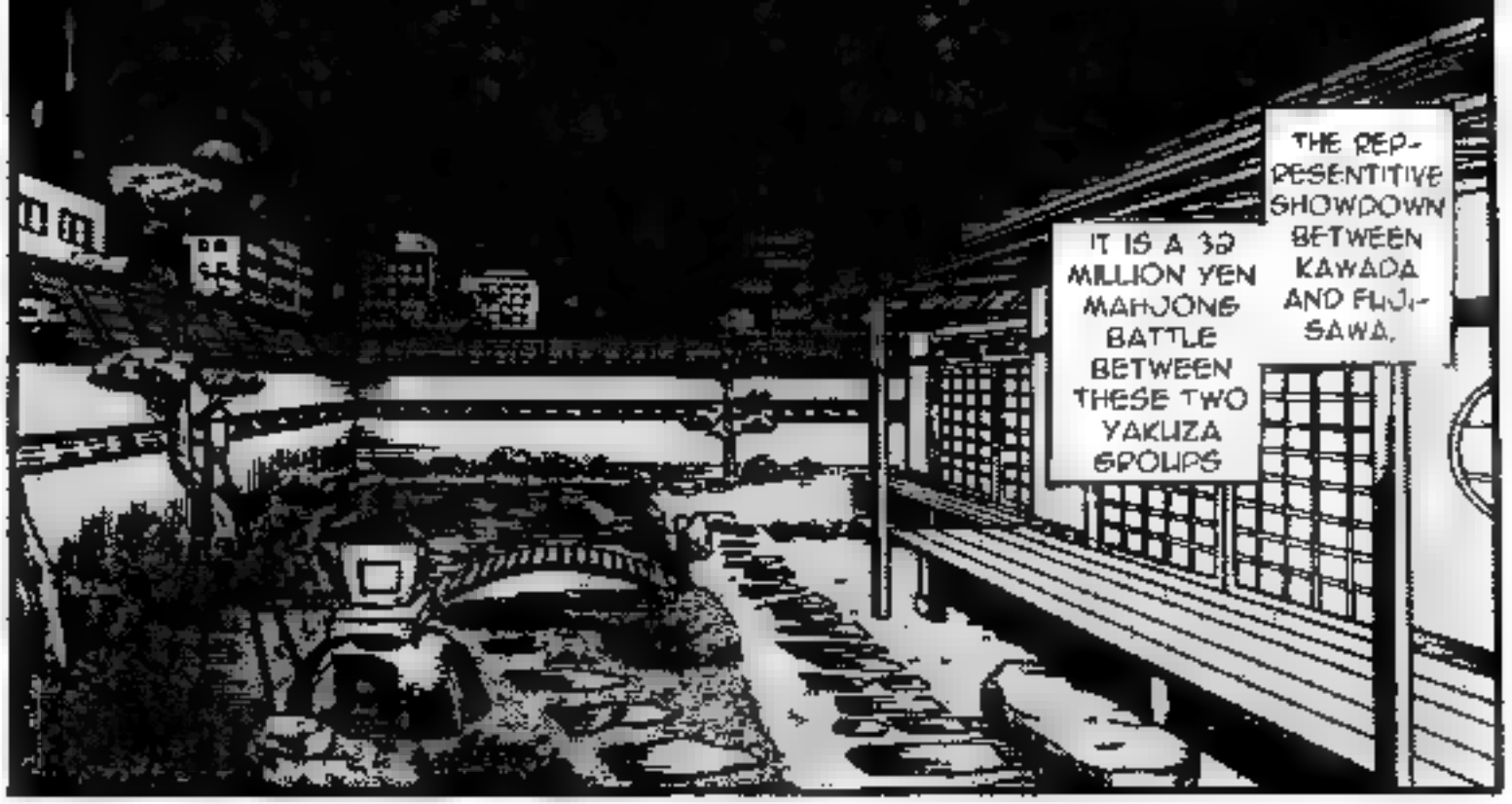
THESE NEXT 3 ROUNDS WILL TURN THE GAME AROUND

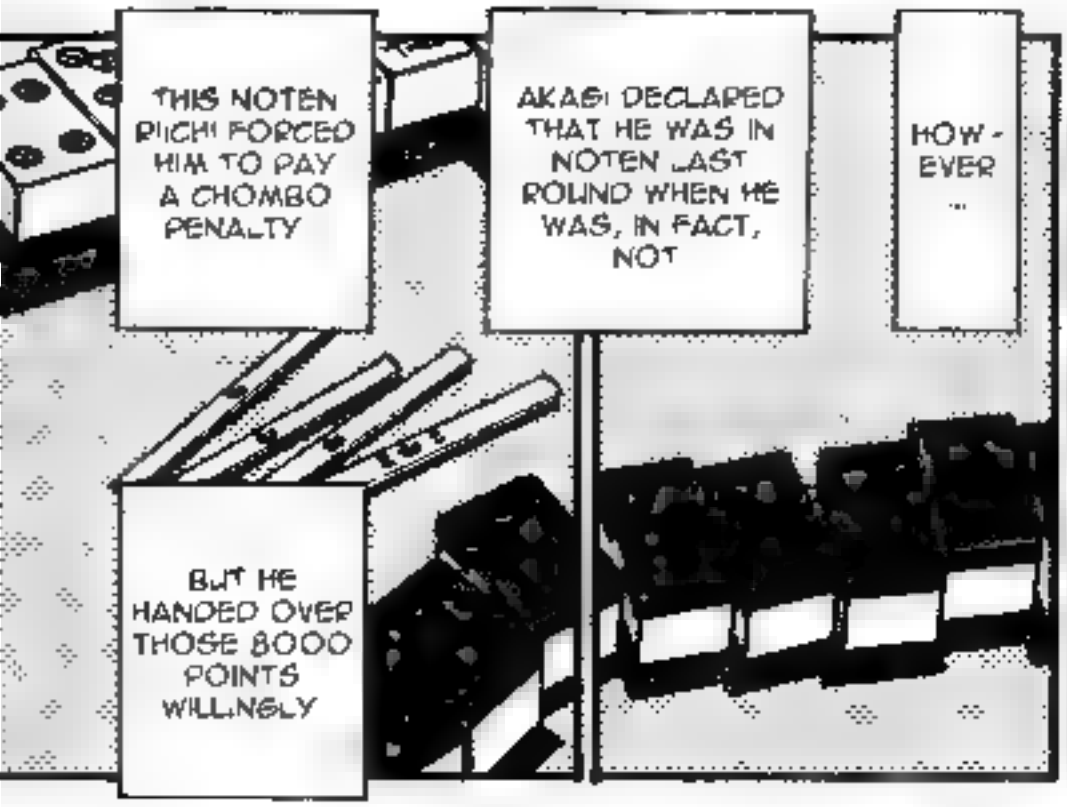
THE GROUND-WORK!

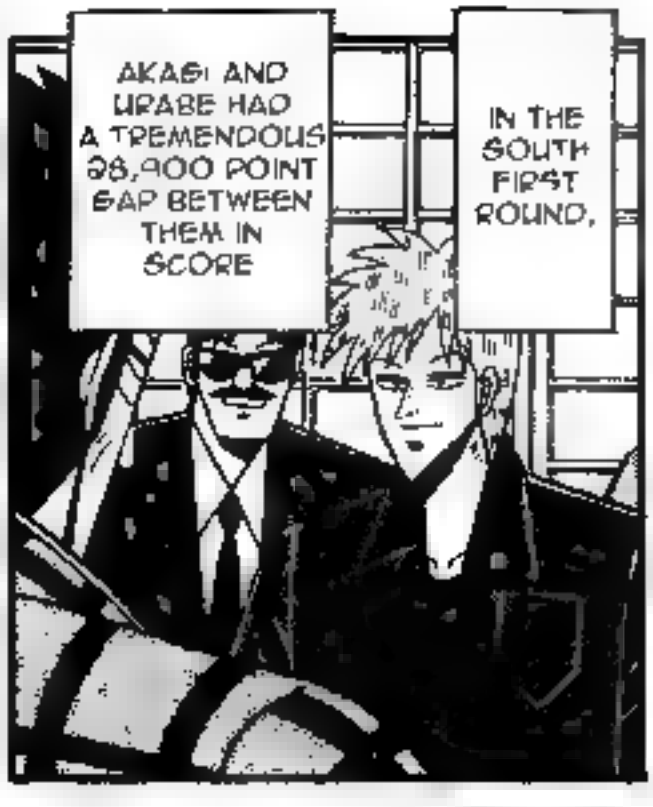
THIS 8000 IS A NECCESARY EXPENSE TO DECIDE THE TIME AND PLACE FOR URABE'S EXECUTION

...

CHAPTER 41 - HIGH TIDE


IT IS A 32 MILLION YEN MAHJONG BATTLE BETWEEN THESE TWO YAKUZA GROUPS
THE REPRESENTITIVE SHOWDOWN BETWEEN KAWADA AND FUJISAWA.





CHAPTER 41 - HIGH TIDE

第41話 高波

JUST ABOUT NOTHING CAN BE DONE TO GET DIRECT HITS OFF OF THEM.

THE THING IS, WHEN PLAYERS OF URABE'S CLASS DECIDE TO PLAY DEFENSIVELY.

SINCE HE ONLY NEEDS TO LOOK OUT FOR DIRECT HITS HE'LL BE VERY CAUTIOUS

THE OPPONENT KNOWS THAT MUCH, TOO

IN OTHER WORDS, A MIRACULOUS BOOST OF LUCK TO TAKE HIM TO BAIMAN AND YAKUMAN!

HE CAN ONLY HOPE FOR THAT UNLIKELY LEVEL OF LUCK...

..100 OR 1000 YEARS. A TREMENDOUSLY HIGH TIDE TO BOOST HIM PAST HIS OPPONENT!

IS TO GET A BURST OF LUCK THAT ONLY COMES ONCE EVERY

WHICH MEANS THAT AKAGI CAN NEVER WIN IF HE PLAYS A NORMAL GAME

THE ONLY HOPE.

IT'S JUST IMPOSSIBLE.

THAT DIFFERENCE WILL BE PRETTY MUCH A DEATH SENTENCE..

IF HE GETS NORMAL DRAWS AND A NORMAL HAND..

45,800 POINTS..

SOMEHOW OR ANOTHER, TO WIN THIS BET WE NEED TO GET DIRECT HITS ON THE OPPONENT, BUT

SHEER TSUMOS WON'T GET HIM ANYWHERE.

SINCE THE DIFFERENCE IS OVER 40,000...

THE START OF THE SOUTH SECOND ROUND...

AKAGI'S HAND

THE WORST!!

WHAT AN AWFUL DRAW TO MAKE..!

EH..!

INFORMING THE PLAYER ABOUT THE MIRACULOUS OCCURANCE THAT ONLY COMES ONCE IN 100 OR 1000 YEARS..

IN REALITY, THIS DRAWING OF THE TON IS A SIGN..

THAT IS NOT QUITE RIGHT..!

THE CALL OF A SEAGULL...

NO..!

THERE'S NO HOPE FOR IT NOW

DRAWING IT HERE LOCKS HIS HAND INTO THE WORST POSITION!

THE TON ISN'T HIS ROUND OR SEAT WIND..

IT HAS NO LUSTER..!

WHAT A COMMON HAND

.....

NO SIGN OF THAT MIRACULOUS HIGH TIDE..!

THERE IS NO HOPE OF PUSHING THIS HAND UP TO WHERE IT NEEDS TO BE..

THE HIGHEST TIDE ...!

WHA...?!

THIS SEEMINGLY HOPELESS HAND...

IN JUST THREE USEFUL DRAWS ...

GOT TRANS-FORMED INTO A POTENTIAL YAKUMAN ...!

WHAT.. JUST HAP-PENED ...?

KH ...!

ざわ・・・

ざわ

HE IS IN RYAN SHAN

HE NOW HAS THREE COMPLETE

IT IS NOW HIS EIGHTH TURN.

WHOA ...!

THREE ANKOU...!

HON ITSU OR CHIN ITSU OF MANZU

PROBABLY WAITING ON THE LOWER AND UPPER END OF THE SUIT

HE'S PROBABLY ALREADY IN TENPAI

AND SINCE HE JUST DEALT AN HONOR TILE

HE'S CALLED TWICE ALREADY

HE'S MOVING QUICKLY, AS WELL

WHAT A CHANGE!

THE PROBLEM WE'RE FACED WITH NOW...

BUT...

IS URABE'S HAND.

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH THIS MAN...

THE THINGS HE DOES ARE SIMPLY IMMEA-SURABLE!

A FULL-BLOWN YAKUMAN...?!

THIS SUU-AN-KOU...

WILL IT END UP IN VAIN...?

OR WILL IT BE...

IT'S THE MOMENT OF TRUTH FOR HIM

WILL TRULY BE PUT TO THE TEST, HERE

AKAGI'S HAND...

FOUR ANKOU!!

RIICHI.

GUESS NOT, THEN

HMM .

WHY DIDN'T YOU AT LEAST RIICHI ON A SINGLE WAIT TO MAKE THE SUU AN KOU FOR SURE?!

WHY DIDN'T YOU WAIT ON THE 5-SOU?!

AND MOREOVER, WHY ON A VARIABLE WAIT?!

WHY WOULD YOU RIICHI RIGHT NOW?!

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?!

WHY?!

NO WAY ..!

EH !

AND MOREOVER, HE DREW THE 5-MAN!!

HE MADE IT!

AND HAVE A SINGLE WAIT FOR IT .

HE CAN KEEP THE 4-MAN

THERE'S NO CHANCE FOR THE HAND TO DROP TO A BAIMAN WITH THE WRONG DEAL.

THE 5-SOU IS A BETTER WAIT ..

HE SHOULD DEAL IT

BUT EVEN IF IT'S A BIT RISKY

HE CAN STILL GET A SUU AN KOU EVEN IF IT'S BY RON!

TENPAI ./

OPEN.

WHAT KIND OF GAME IS THIS ?!

THIS MAKES NO SENSE AT ALL.

I DON'T GET IT.

KUMICHOU.

HU-HU..

T/N. KUMICHOU = YAKUZA BOSS

THIS IS WELL... WITHOUT REASON FOR A MAN LIKE AKAGI.

THERE IS NO NEED TO BE SO CONFUSED ISHIKAWA.

GH..

ざわ..!!

BUT WE ORD NARY PEOPLE

IT'S BASED ON A GENERAL READ

AND WHAT'S MORE, IT WAS MORE OR LESS SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT

HIS DECISION WAS RATHER SELF-RIGHTEOUS

WITHIN REASON ..?

QUITE

IT'S REALLY QUITE SIMPLE

SO WHAT WAS HIS READ, THEN ..?

?...

.....

MIGHT TH NK THAT IT'S RATHER STRANGE.

HUH?

SO, ISHIKAWA, KNOWING THAT, WHAT CAN HE DO?

HE KNOWS THAT URABE IS WA TING ON THE 1, 4, AND 7 MAN

HE CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH URABE'S TILES, LIKE THEY ARE TRANS-PARENT.

RIGHT NOW, SHIKAWA, HE S USING THAT SPEC AL ABILITY OF HIS

THAT S WHY HE CAN NOT

IF HE WERE TO DEAL IT, URABE WOULD CALL RON WITHOUT HESI-TAT ON.

THAT HE CANNOT DEAL THAT 4-MAN

LOOK AT HIS HAND, AND YOU WILL SEE CLEARLY

AND SINCE HE CAN SEE THOSE TILES CLEAR-LY ..

THAT MAKES SENSE TO ME NOW, AT LEAST

I SEE ..

BUT STILL ..

.

.

SO THERE S NO REASON NOT TO R ICHI

THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN DEAL THE 4-MAN

BUT THERE ARE STILL OTHER PEOPLE TO GET IT FROM!

I MEAN, HE'S WAIT NG ON THE SAME TILE THAT URABE IS, SO HE WON'T GET IT FROM HIM..

BUT THERE'S STILL NO NEED TO OPEN HIS HAND ALONG W TH IT!

THE R ICHI ALONE IS FINE IN THAT SENSE

HU-HU ..

.....

BUT YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT HE'S GIV NG UP ON A SUU AN KOU RON FROM SOMEONE?!

A YAKU-MAN RON?!

OR SO HE ESTI-MATES.

THERE IS NO WAY THAT THE OTHERS WILL PLAY THE 4-MAN FOR HIM.

THAT HE COULD NOT RON

AKAGI MADE THE ESTI-MATION .

HE'S NOT EVEN GIVING THAT THOUGHT A CHANCE?!

IF ANY-ONE WERE TO PLAY IT, IT WOULD BE THE PLAYER TO AKAGI'S RIGHT.

THERE'S NO WAY HE WOULD PLAY MANZU TILES WHEN URABE IS GOING FOR THAT SUIT

ALL OF HIS DIS-CARDS HAVE BEEN PLAYING IT SAFE

HE WAS OUT OF IT CLOSE TO THE START

THE PLAYER TO AKAGI'S LEFT

TAKE A LOOK

URABE IS ABLE TO HEAD-BUMP THE TILE AWAY FROM H M.

AKAGI WOULD STILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET IT.

BUT EVEN IF HE WERE TO PLAY THE 4-MAN THAT AKAGI NEEDS.

HE CAN ONLY TSUMO, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.

SO, IN THAT WAY, IT DOESN'T MATTER IF HE DOES AN OPEN RIICHI OR NOT.

SO, ANY WAY THAT YOU LOOK AT IT,

AKAGI CAN NOT GET THE 4-MAN FROM A RON.

BUT IN THIS CASE, NONE OF THAT MATTERS.

BEFORE EVEN W NNING OR NOT WINN NG, YOU NEED TO DEC DE WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN MPROVE UPON THE HAND YOU HAVE.

OF COURSE BEFORE YOU RIICHI,

THAT'S RIGHT.

AN-OTHER MOTVA-TION ..?

HE HAS ANOTHER MOTVATION FOR CALLING THIS OPEN RICHI

WHETHER OR NOT HE COULD HAVE IM-PROVED UPON HIS HAND ..

THERE IS STILL REASON TO RICHI WITH THIS HAND

IT'S GOAL IS TO GET URABE TO COMPROMISE

AN OPEN Sud AN KOU IS A THREAT.

THAT ESTI-MA-TION ..

AKAGI KAD, INDEED, SUPPOSED THAT URABE WAS WAITING ON 1-4-7 MAN, AND COULD THEREFORE NOT DEAL IN

WAS ABSO-LUTELY RIGHT

WAS HALF COR-RECT

AT THAT TIME, KAWADA-KUMI-CHOU'S GUESS ..

YES

..... ?

URABE'S 1-4-7 MAN WAIT

BUT HE COULD CHANGE ALL'A THAT IN JUST ONE MORE DRAW!!

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US IS 45,800

HE CAN TAKE AWAY EVERY-THIN' I'VE BEEN BUILDIN' TOWARDS!!

IF HE CAN DRAW THE TILE HE NEEDS TO WIN

EVEN IF IT'S AN INSANE WAY TO PLAY

BUT..

IT CAN'T BE..?!

KH..!

HMM-HM..

WHO IS THIS KID?!

DAMMIT.

THAT'S JUST INSANE, MAN!

AN OPEN RIICHI ON A SUU AN KOU..?!

SHIT.

ぐあ..

WHEW

.....

.....

BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO KEEP PUSHING MYSELF TO PLAY.

HE DION'T GET IT ON HIS IPPATSU DRAW.

THIS'S BAD FOR MY BLOOD PRESSURE

PON

CHI

WE DO NOT.

NO.

.....

Y'KNOW THAT MORONIC RULE WHERE DEALIN' INTO AN OPEN RICHI MAKES IT AN NSTANT YAKUMAN HAND?

HEY, KAWADA-KUM-CHOU

YOU DON'T HAVE THAT HERE, DO YA?

I'LL DEAL RIGHT IN!!

'KAY THEN!

.....

SO THIS WAS AKAGI'S PLAN!

GETTING A DIRECT HIT ON URABE

WAS THOUGHT IMPOSSIBLE WITH THE WAGER AS IT WAS !

THERE IT IS!!

AH ...!

THIS 2-MAN MAKES IT A MAN-GAN HAND!

AND HE GOT JUST WHAT HE WANTED

THE URA-DORA CAN EVEN BOOST IT UP AS FAR AS BAI-MAN!

HE FORCED HIM TO DO IT

IT SEEMS AKAGI IS VERY SKILLED WHEN IT COMES TO GETTING OTHERS TO DEAL IN!

HE'S MANAGED TO GET THE OPPO-NENT TO DEAL RIGHT INTO HIS HAND!

BUT WITH THIS SUU AN KOU

HE LEAVES NO ROOM FOR HAP-PENSTANCE!

A PURE EXCHANGE OF POINTS

SIMPLY BE-CAUSE HE IS NOT INVOLVED IN THE WAGER,

WHILE EVERYONE ELSE IN THE ROOM IS GETTING HOT-HEADED

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT HE IS THE REAL AKAGI!

THIS MAN IS TRULY THE REAL THING

HE IS ABLE TO MAKE THIS BOLD AND REALISTIC MOVE!

WHAT.?!

LESSEE HOW THE URA-DORA-

WHATCHA WAITIN' AROUND FOR?

WHAT ARE YOU, RETAR-DED?

HMM-HMM-HMM

KEEP THE GAME GOING.

I DON'T INTEND TO WIN OFF OF CHEAP HANDS.

WHA..?!

AKAGI!!

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS...!

OF COURSE I'M SERI-OUS

JUST NOW, URABE TOOK APART HIS HAND IN ORDER TO TRY AND DEAL INTO MINE.

HE MADE THE ASSUMPTION THAT I WOULD ACCEPT HIS OFFER.. AND CRIPPLED HIMSELF, THINKING IT WAS OVER

IN OTHER WORDS RIGHT NOW, HIS HAND IS IN NO SHAPE TO WIN.

AND SO..

WITH THIS SUU AN KOU.

I'LL CATCH UP, NOW THAT HE HAS STOPPED.

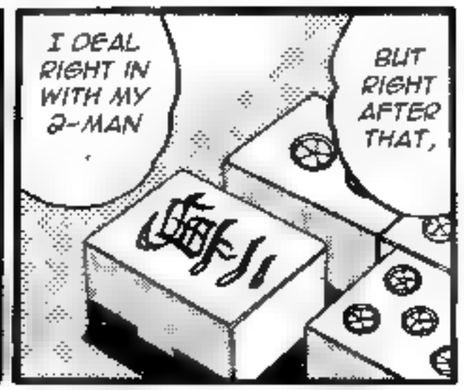
OF COURSE I WON'T QUIT.

WHA...?!

第42話 封殺

CHAPTER 42 - SUPPRESSION

BUT HE OVERLOOKS ALL'A THAT, TOO?!
I OFFER 'IM A SAN AN KOU MANGAN HAND .


I DEAL RIGHT IN WITH MY 2-MAN .
BUT RIGHT AFTER THAT,

ON COM-PLETING THIS SUU AN KOU ...?
HE'S REALLY SET .

THE VARIABLE-WAIT OPEN RIICHI.
THAT SINGLE-WAIT SUU AN KOU

IS ALREADY FAR FROM NORMAL .
EVERYTHING AROUND THAT WHOLE RIICHI ..

WHAT'S THIS KID'S DEAL?

.....

ZAAAAA

ACCEPTING NOTHIN' SHORT OF A YAKUMAN TSUMO?!

HE'S REALLY A PIECE OF TRASH!

IF THAT'S WHAT HE'S PLANNIN'

WELL, IF HE IS..

HMM

DON'T PRESS YOUR LUCK FOR AN UN-CERTAIN YAKUMAN, GODDAMMIT!

THAT'S WHAT HE SHOULD'VE DONE!

THE DIF-FERENCE OF 45,800 BETWEEN US

WOULD SHRINK DOWN TO 29,800!

THAT MANGAN IS THE BEST YOU COULD POSSIBLY HOPE FOR!

RIGHT NOW, NO MATTER WHAT IT'D SAY ABOUT YOU..

IF HE'D'VE TAKEN THAT MANGAN JUST NOW.

HE WON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT HOW LITTLE TIME HE HAS LEFT..?!

EVEN NOW, WHEN TIME IS RUNNIN' OUT!

EVEN NOW..

HE JUST WON'T COMPRO-MISE WITH ME..

HE JUST MISSED THE BEST CHANCE HE'LL EVER GET TO WIN A DIRECT HIT MANGAN OFFA HIS OPPONENT!

IT'S JUST COMMON SENSE!

IF HE CAN'T WIN WITH THIS..

IS TO TRY AND SEND ME TO THE GRAVE!

THE GOAL OF THAT SUU AN KOU..

BUT EVEN STILL

. IS DOWN-RIGHT WEAK!

FIRST OFF, MAKE NO MIS-TAKE

THIS KID'S GAM-BLIN' SENSE..

WILL FALL RIGHT OFF WITH IT!!

ANY CHANCE OF 'IM WINNIN'

AND ALONG WITH THAT CHANCE FALLIN' OFFA THE FACE OF THE EARTH

URABE'S HAND

14TH TURN

AND IT'S THE 2-MAN AGAIN..!

HE JUST GAVE UP A TSUMO WIN

URGH ../

IF THAT'S HOW IT IS..

SO HE'S REALLY ONLY LOO-KIN' FOR A SUU AN KOU

DID THAT MESS UP THE MOMENTUM I HAD WITH MY DRAWS..?

WHEN I GAVE HIM THE 2-MAN HE NEEDED TO WIN

BACK THEN, WHEN I TRIED TO DEAL INTO HIS HAND..

CAN'T SEEM TO GET ANY MANZU TILES..

.....

HMPH.

SHIT..

YOU'LL BE SHOT DOWN IN FLAMES!

WHAT KINDA GAME IS THAT TO PLAY?!

HE'S JUST CRAZY.

HAS JUST BEEN FOL-LOWIN' HIS GUT..

UP TO NOW, THAT KID..

6 AND 8 MAN DOUBLE WAIT!

I GOT MY TENPAI AGAIN!

AKAGI ...

BUT THEN ... ON THE 15TH TURN ...

I'LL TEACH YOU A LESSON

'BOUT THAT IDIOTIC MAHJONG GAME YOU PLAY!

IT'S ALL OVER NOW

I GOT IT...!

THAT'S THE END OF IT

三萬
三萬
三萬
四萬
伍萬
伍萬

伍萬
六萬
東
東
東

HE CAN'T DEAL THIS G-MAN AGAINST URABE
AND MORE IMPOR-TANTLY

THERE'S STILL NO NEED TO TAKE SUCH A BIG RISK!
EVEN THOUGH THIS IS AKAGI WE'RE TALKING ABOUT..

六萬

SO DEALING THIS TILE WOULD BE..
URABE'S HAND IS CHIN ITSU
六萬

URGH..!

HE ONLY HAS 2 MORE TURNS LEFT!
HE CAN'T DRAW IT OUT ANY LONGER, NOW.

HE GOT IT!!
HIS VERY LAST WIN-NING TILE..!!

A MANGAN TSUMO!!
...DRAWS ANOTHER WINNING TILE!!
六萬
伍萬

GH
...!!

UN-
BELIE-
VABLE
!!!

WHAT
THE
HELL IS
THIS?

THIS
S LIKE
TAK N'
CANDY
FROM A
BABY

THAT YA
COULDN'T
DEAL THAT
G-MAN!!

BUT YOU
COULDN'T
SENSE

NOT ONLY
DID YOU
NOT DRAW
YOUR
SUM AN
KOU.

THIS CAN'T
BE THE
BEST
PLAYER IN
KAWADA'S
GROUP

.....

NO
GODDAMN
SENSE OF
JUDGEMENT!

YOU PLAY
LIKE A
DRUNKEN
ID OT.

WHAT KIND
OF BULLSHIT
PLAY N' STYLE
IS TH S FOR
A GAME WORTH
MILLIONS?!

RON.
CHIN ITSU. MANGAN.
GIMME 12,000.
I CAN'T BE-LIEVE IT ..
.....
AKAGI'S HIGH-HANDED SUU AN KOU.. HIS STUBBORN, UNMOVING PLAYING STYLE ..
NOTHING WORKED OUT.
NOW OUR POINTS ARE LOWER THAN LOW ..
IT'S A DIRECT HIT.
AND ON THE OTHER HAND ..
WITH THIS WIN, URABE HAS 72,700 POINTS.
AKAGI ONLY HAS A MEASELY 900
THERE'S A 71,800 POINT DIFFERENCE !

THAT'S 48,000 .. 16,000 FROM URABE SO 64,000 FROM THE DIFFERENCE . .

NOT EVEN THAT COULD WIPE AWAY THE 70 THOUSAND POINTS

OKAY .. FOR THE SAKE OF ARGUMENT .. LET'S SAY THAT AKAGI CAN TSUMO A YAKUMAN IN THE LAST ROUND, WHERE HE'S DEALER .

OVER 70,000 ..

.....

A DIFFERENCE THAT NOT EVEN A DEALER YAKUMAN TSUMO CAN MAKE A DENT IN. .

HMM-HMM-HMM ..

.....

NO EXAGERATION . . IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE A COMEBACK AT THIS POINT .

OH, WE'RE SO FUCKED .

HAH-HAH-HAH

THE GOOD THINGS THAT COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT...

THE FORTUNE OF PEOPLE LIKE AKAGI ...

HE ONCE AGAIN STOOD CORRECTED ...!

RIGHT AFTER ISHIKAWA HAD GIVEN UP ALL HOPE FOR A COMEBACK

HOWEVER ...

T/N. EACH TIME A DEALER WINS, THEY PAY A SMALL "HONBA" FINE AND THE ROUND AND DEALER STAY WHERE THEY ARE. URABE IS THE DEALER FOR THE SOUTH SECOND ROUND HERE

.....

SOUTH SECOND ROUND (1 HONBA)

THE NEXT ROUND ...

AKAGI'S STARTING HAND...!

HE CAN MAKE A KOKUSHI WITHOUT HIS OPPONENTS KNOWING, THANKS TO THIS STARTING HAND!

IT'S IDEAL!

THAT WILL GIVE IT A BIT OF A SMOKESCREEN TO DISGUISE ITS TRUE FORM, A KOKUSHI MUSOU!!

CAME EQUIPPED WITH THIS EXCESS PEI!

AND THIS STARTING HAND..

HE'S IN SANSHAN TEN FOR KOKUSHI MUSOU!

11 TERMINALS ... 9 DIFFERENT ONES!

ONE

TWO..

THREE

AH ..!

AND 6 TURNS LATER ..

ON HIS 4TH TURN ..

HE MAKES IT 10.

T/N KOKUSHI MUSOU IS A SPECIAL HAND IN MAHJONG WHERE COLLECTING ONE OF ALL OF THE HONORS, WINDS, AND TERMINALS (13 TOTAL) PLUS ONE EXTRA TILE OF ANY OF THOSE (13+1 = 14) WILL MAKE A COMPLETE HAND. VERY RARE, AND THUS IS ONE OF THE YAKUMAN HANDS.

AKAGI'S LIKE A MAGNET FOR GOOD FORTUNE ... HE DREW THESE TILES IN BY FORCE!

THIS IS INCREDIBLE!

IT'S LIKE A MAGNET ..

HIS ELEVENTH TURN...!

RON!

WAS ABRUPTLY STOPPED

THAT KOKUSHI MUSOU

.....

HEHE HE ..

JRABE CUT THAT ACHIEVEMENT BEFORE IT COULD BE CONCIEVED BY DEALING INTO A LOW HAND.

JUST WHEN AKAGI'S HAND WAS LOOKING AS THOUGH IT WOULD TURN INTO A KOKUSHI MUSOU ..

JUST A PINFU... 1300 POINTS, PLEASE

AH ..!!

HE'S ALMOST THERE ..!!

II SHAN TEN!!

ISHI-KAWA'S HOPES WERE QUICKLY DASHED.

BUT ..

KEEP ON GOING, AKAGI! GET JUST ONE MORE!!

GOOD.

SO ALL YOU'VE GOT NOW IS THE 3RD AND 4TH ROUNDS . .

SORRY TO BREAK IT TO YA, NIISAN

WITH THIS WIN, I'VE CUT OFF ANOTHER CHANCE FOR YOU TO WIN...!

ヤラ

ヤラ

. . . . . .

HUHHHHHHH...

. . . . . .

JUST LIKE I THOUGHT... IT'S HOPELESS.

WE'VE BEEN SEALED OFF.

IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW LONG WE HAVE LEFT.

IF URABE IS GOING TO PLAY THAT KIND OF GAME.

IT WAS CRUSHED.

WE JUST SAW AKAGI'S MONSTER HAND BUILD UP BIT BY BIT, BUT BEFORE IT COULD EVEN GET THERE

HEHE HE..

DAM-MIT..

FOR-GET ABOUT WINNING.

WE WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO GET TO TENPAI

I'VE GOT AN EASY WIN AHEAD OF ME

I WON'T EVEN LET HIM GET A HAND.

THAT'S RIGHT..

...

I WON'T LET HIM SO MUCH AS WIGGLE AN INCH!

I'VE GOT HIM RUNNED IN CEMENT

AND THE DIFFERENCE IN POINTS IS TOO GREAT!

THERE'S JUST TWO MINUTES LEFT

TOTAL SUPPRESSION!!

HMM-HMM-HM

THE GAP BETWEEN US AND URABE IS 70,000 .

ALL WE HAVE NOW IS THE 3RD AND 4TH ROUNDS. JUST TWO MORE.

I CAN'T THINK OF ANY WAY TO DIG OUR WAY OUT OF THIS!

.....

I CAN'T THINK OF ANY-THING ..

.....

AKAGI ..!

HE SOME-HOW NEEDS TO PUT TO-EVEN GETHER A WITH URABE HAND., BLOCKING HIM OFF

WITH HIS DEALING INTO QUICK, CHEAP HANDS!!

WITH SUCH A MASSIVE POINT DIFFERENCE .. AND SO FEW ROUNDS REMAINING ..

HOW CAN HE EVEN GET THIS MATCH GOING IN HIS FAVOR AT THIS POINT ...?

CHAPTER 43 - NAUGHT

第43話 絶無

THE ROLL IS 11..

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チャラ…

ズ…

チャ…

……

YOU MADE A MISTAKE.

……

……

YOU'RE NOT TAKING ANY TILES

WHAT'S WRONG ..?

カチ…

THE DEALER RETURNS HIS TILES.

COME ON, MAN

OH!

YOU FLIPPED OVER THE 12TH TILE

YOU'RE OFF BY ONE.

SORRY ABOUT THAT

HUH?

LET'S GO

OKAY, THEN

ANY SIGNS OF UNEA-SINESS

EVEN IN SUCH A HOPELESS SPOT, HE'S NOT SHOWING

HE'S CALM ..

...

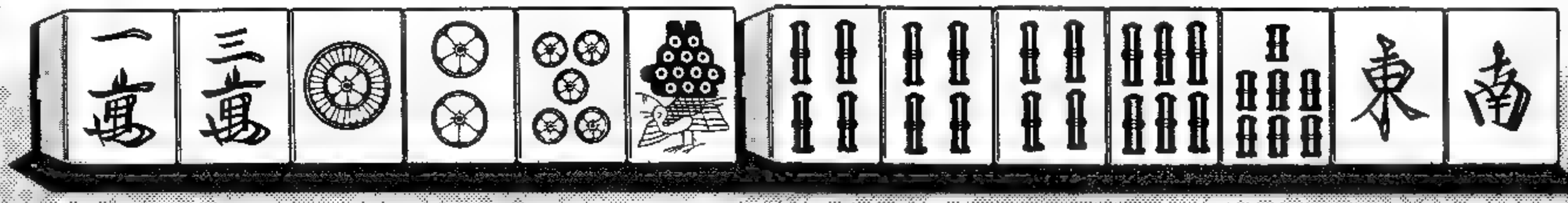
...HAVE SOMETHING ELSE UP HIS SLEEVE...?

DOES HE...

A SECRET WEAPON ?

SOME-THING HE CAN USE TO TAKE THIS GAME BACK FROM URABE ...?!

AKAGI'S STARTING HAND



BUT THIS DRAW KILLED THAT RIGHT OFF!

AT LEAST IT WAS LOOKING LIKE IT COULD BE HON ITSU

DAMMIT

9 TURNS LATER ..

THIS HAND IS GETTING CHEAPER!

WHAT IS THIS ?!

GH ..!

ナ...

IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL

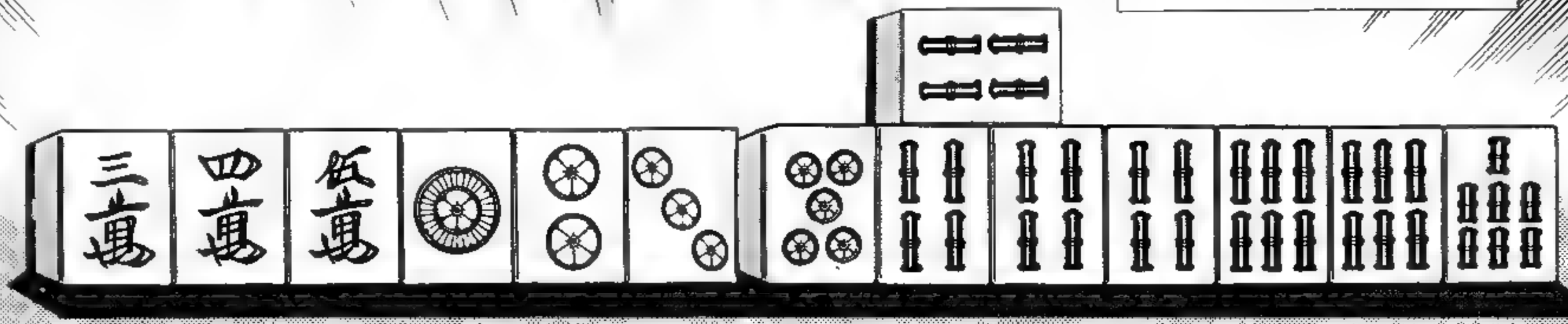
三萬

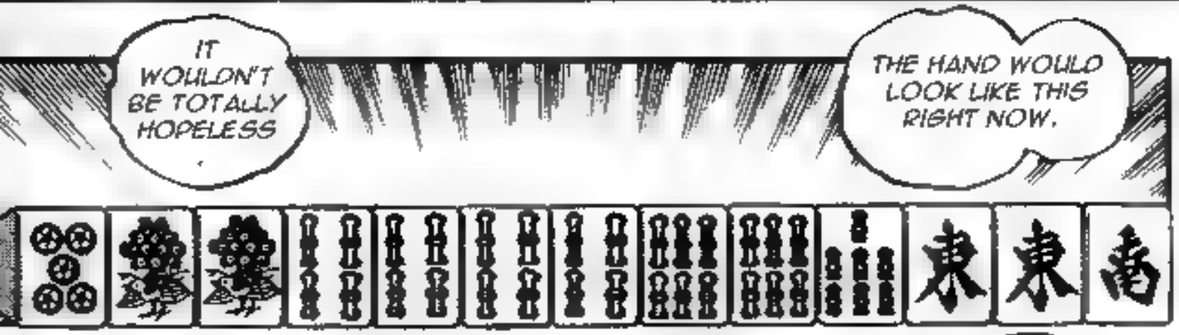
ナ...

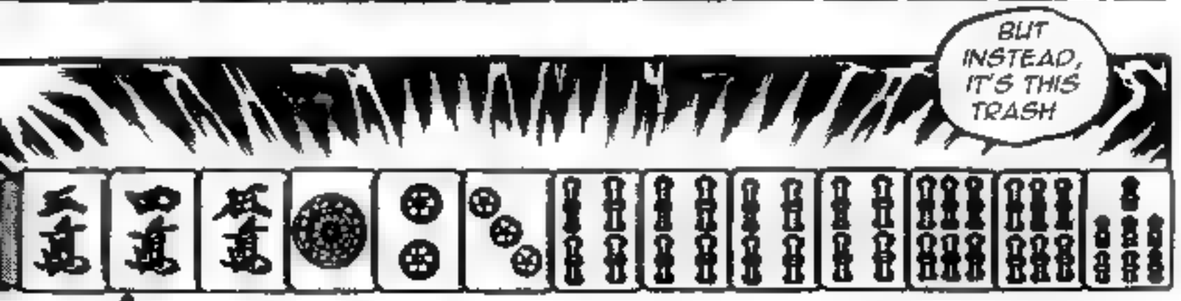
WE GET THIS HAND INSTEAD ..

RIGHT WHEN WE WERE HOPING FOR SOMETHING HUGE

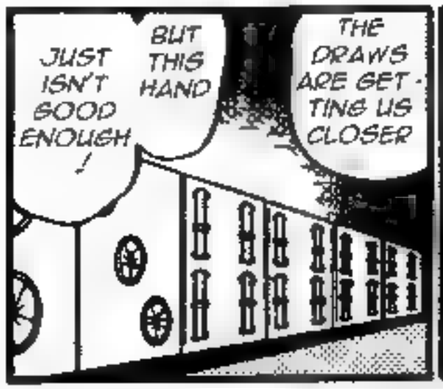
AKAGI'S HAND




IT WOULDN'T BE TOTALLY HOPELESS.
THE HAND WOULD LOOK LIKE THIS RIGHT NOW.


BUT INSTEAD, IT'S THIS TRASH

AS IT IS NOW, THE HAND IS ONLY 2600
...
AKA-GI.
WHY DIDN'T YOU LOCK IN THAT HON ITSU HAND...?


JUST ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH!
BUT THIS HAND
THE DRAWS ARE GETTING US CLOSER

SIGH.

.....

HE DISCARDED SOME TON AND 1-SOU TILES.. HAD HE KEPT THEM..
THIS HAND COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER.
THINKING ABOUT IT..

SOMEHOW OR ANOTHER, WE NEED TO BRING THIS HAND UP TO HANEMAN!

THERE'S NOT ENOUGH TIME FOR THIS!
WE'VE ONLY GOT TWO ROUNDS TO WORK WITH.

TENPAI!

三萬 四萬 伍萬

OH, THE NEW DORA ...

.....

THE NEW DORA INDICATOR IS A 3-SOU ...?!

AH ...!!

A USELESS TENPAI.

THERE'S NO POINT IN WINNING WITH THIS HAND ...

THE WAY THINGS ARE ...

BUT ...

HE'S THERE ...

KAN.

THIS CLOSED KAN IS WORTH ...

DORA 4...?!

THEN THAT MEANS ...

WHAT A TURN OF EVENTS ..!!

LUCKY BAS-TARD ...

.....

ざわ...

AS USUAL, HIS STRA-TEGY IS FAR BEYOND ANYTHING I CAN UNDER-STAND

IT'S UN-REAL !

THIS MAN ..

BUT IT JUST BECAME HUGE !

THIS HAND WAS LOOKING LIKE TRASH .

THIS HAND IS GOOD E-NOUGH AS IT IS!

WE CAN ACCEPT THIS TEN-PAI EVEN WITHOUT THOSE YAKU..

WE WON'T NEED TO MEET DIF-FICULT RE-QUIREMENTS LIKE HON ITSU..

AS A RE-SULT ,

THIS HAND ..

IF HE CAN FOLLOW THROUGH WITH IT

WITH THIS DORA 4..

RIICHI AND MENZEN TSUMO, IT'S A HANEMAN!!

NOT WITH THIS FLOW!

WE CAN'T LOSE THIS ROUND ...

HE'S VERY LIKELY TO SUC-CEED!

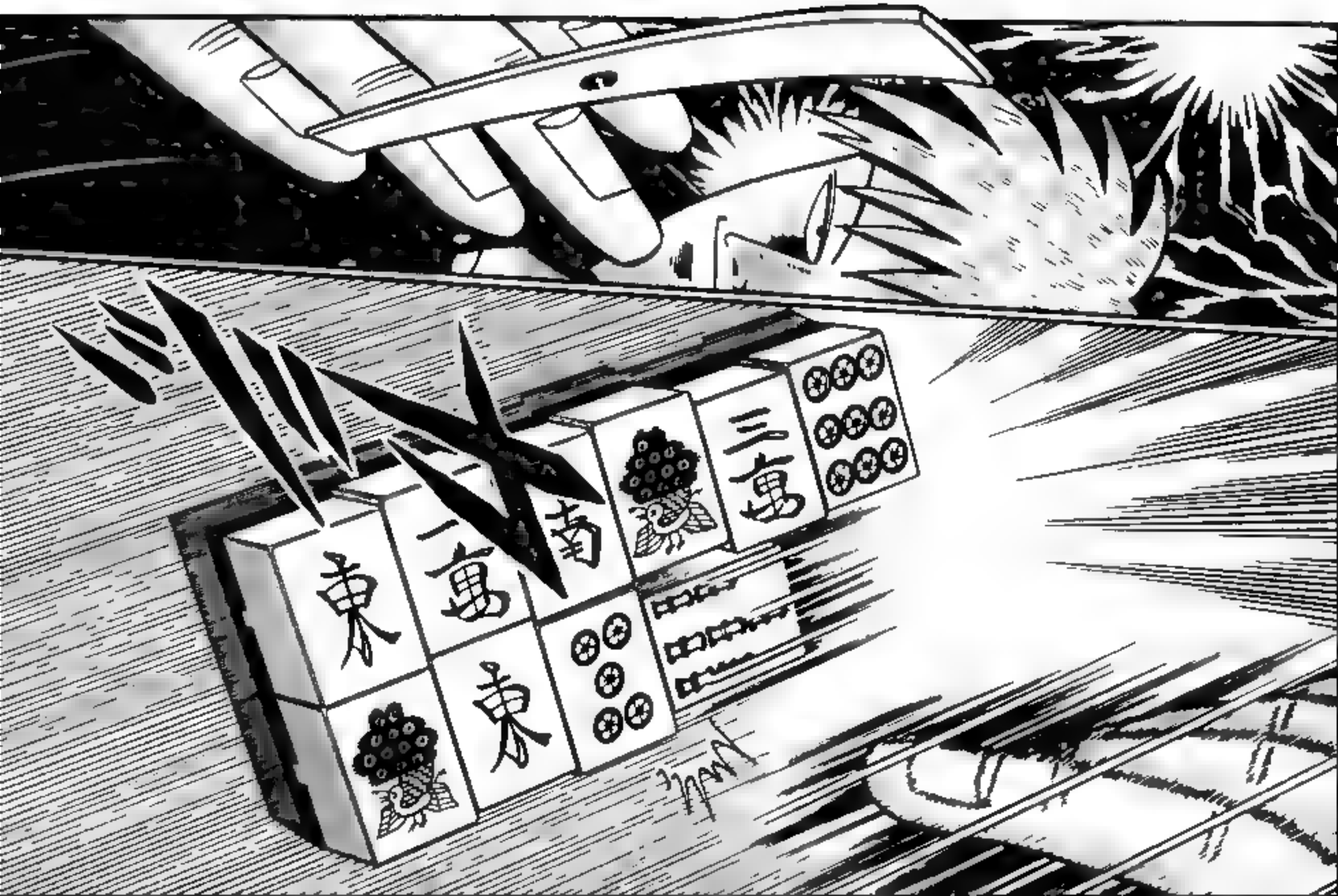
AND THANKS TO THIS 3-SIDED WAIT ..

RIICHI.

WHA-?!

O_O

H!


東
一萬
南
三萬
東
東

ドッ…

カチャッ…

WHY DIDN'T YOU, AKAGI?!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

GH ...!

WHY?!

YOU CUT THE 7-SOU ..?!

WHY DIDN'T YOU PURSUE THAT 3-SIDED WAIT ..?!

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS SINGLE WAIT FOR THE PEI?!

IT'S A HELL WAIT!

AND TO HIS RIGHT BOTH HAVE ONE IN THEIR DISCARDS

THE PLAYER TO HIS LEFT

WHO'S PLAYED IT SO FAR.

THIS PEI SINGLE WAIT WON'T COME FROM URABE SO EASILY!

AND SWITCH IT OUT FOR THIS?!

URABE WILL NEVER LET A WINNING TILE PASS!

BUT HERE, THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN!

WITH A NORMAL HAND AND UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET IT..

BUT NOW ..

I COULD SEE A QUICK ESCAPE HAPPENING WITH THE 5-7-8 SOU WAIT..

YOU SHOULD BE TRYING TO GET ANY KIND OF TSUMO THAT YOU CAN MANAGE!!

YOU'VE GOT TO CONSIDER THAT THERE IS STILL OVER 70,000 POINTS BETWEEN YOU AND URABE!

BUT STILL ...

IS HE TRYING TO GET A DIRECT HIT?

DOING THIS MEANS

TO THROW AWAY THAT 3-SIDED WAIT

EVEN WITH THAT IN MIND

HMM, I COULD SEE THAT WORKING .

.....

BASED ON ALL OF THAT, URABE WILL FEEL PRES-SURED..

SO THERE'S NO NEED TO OVERDO IT ON HIM!

THIS DECISION TO RIICHI WITH DORA 4...

AND DEPENDING ON WHAT THE URA-DORA ARE, JUST HOW FAR COULD THIS HAND END UP GOING ..?

MAKING AN EX-POSED INSTANT MANGAN

AT ANY RATE ..

AND SINCE HE WILL ..

HE'LL BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO GIVE UP ANY DIRECT HITS ..

THIS ROUND, HE WILL BE TOTALLY ON THE DE-FENSIVE.

IT WOULD BE MUCH BETTER TO KEEP THE 3-SIDED WAIT!

THAT WAY, YOU COULD AT LEAST TSUMO! MAKE NO MISTAKE .

AND SINCE THAT'S HOW IT IS ..

HE WON'T TAKE ANY RISKS!

HE WON'T DEAL IT!

WHETHER IT'S A SINGLE WAIT ON THE PEI

OR A 3-SIDED SOUZU WAIT

THIN-KING BACK !

Oo

WAIT A MIN-UTE ..

!!..

.....

Oo

SO WHY IS HE IGNO-RING IT..

AT THIS STAGE OF THE GAME, THAT MUCH, AT LEAST, IS OBVIOUS

SORRY ABOUT THAT

OH!

YOU FLIPPED OVER THE 12TH TILE

YOU'RE OFF BY ONE.

AT THE START OF THE MATCH ..!

BACK THEN, WE ALL SAW THAT THAT TILE WAS A PEI...!

THAT'S RIGHT ...!

PLUS THE PEI IN THE DEAD WALL

MAKE THREE TILES

THEN THAT MEANS

THE TWO PEI THAT ARE IN THE DISCARDS

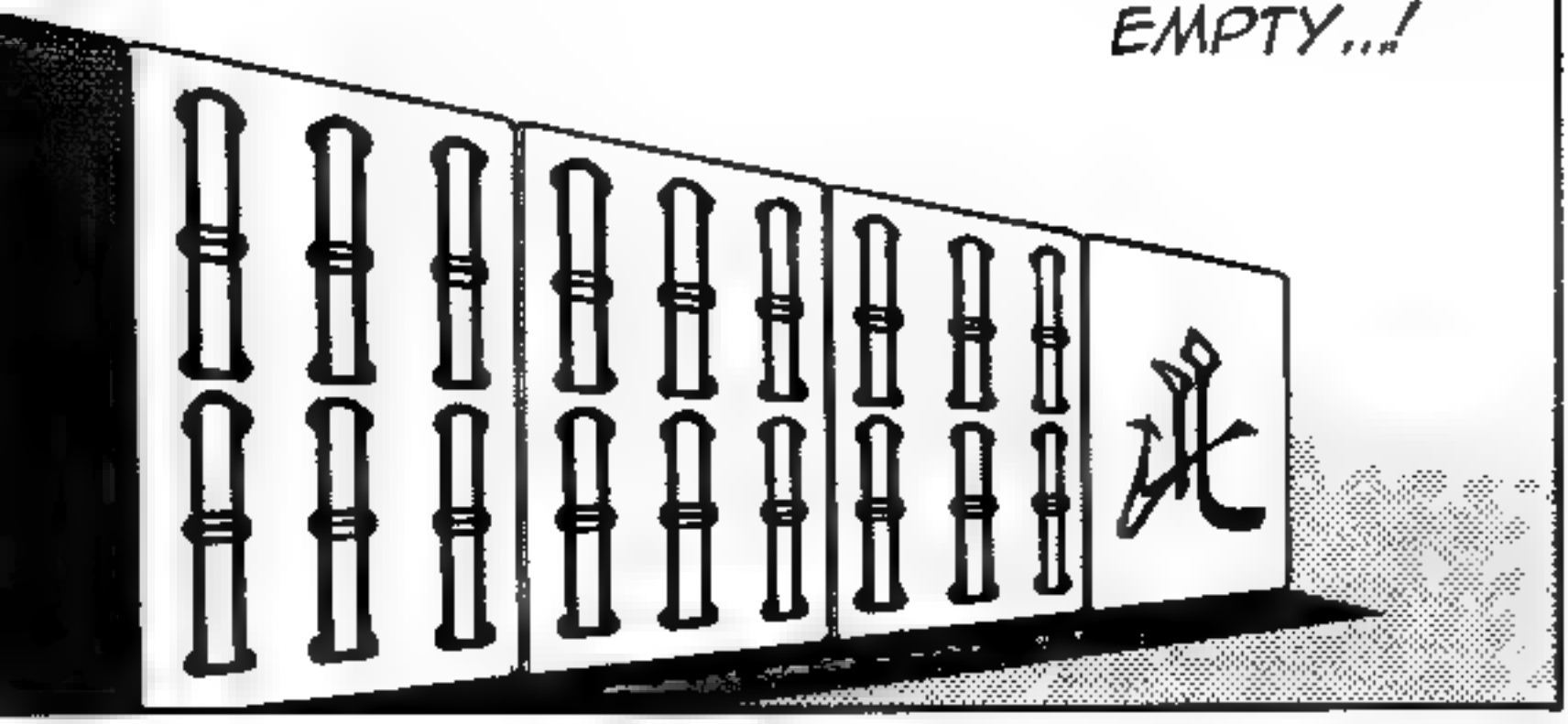
URGH

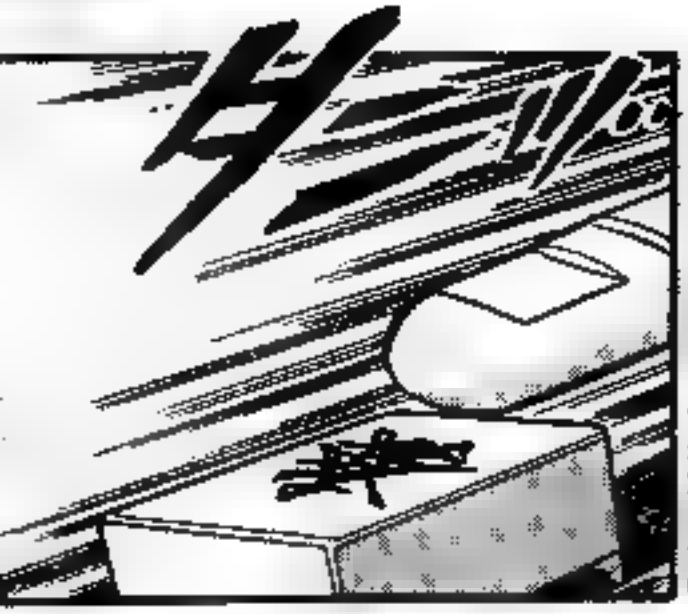
AND THAT MEANS

.....

THERE ARE NO WINNING TILES!!!

THIS SINGLE PEI WAIT IS TOTALLY EMPTY...!





...

THAT SINGLE WAIT ON THE PEI!

THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING TO IT!

北

THE ONLY THING I CAN THINK OF

.....

AND CALL KAN!

AKAGI COULD DRAW ANOTHER 6-SOU

北

IS THAT PEI THAT HE NEEDS ...

IF HE WAITS UNTIL THE NEXT DEAD WALL DRAW ,

IN THAT CASE

BARRING EVERYTHING ELSE

THE ONE WAY THAT I CAN SEE IT HAPPENING ..

Od

THAT'S PLAIN IMPOSSIBLE ..

RIGHT NOW ..

BECAUSE ..

Ooo

BUT ,

.....

HE WOULD GET THE PEI THAT HE NEEDS!

AND THEN, ON THE NEXT DEAD WALL DRAW

A RINSHAN TSUMO!

.....

THERE'S NO WAY FOR HIM TO KAN AND DRAW THAT TILE.

SO NOTHING MORE CAN BE DONE

THE PLAYER TO AKAGI'S LEFT PLAYED THE 6-SOU ON HIS 6TH TURN . !

THE ONLY OTHER WAY

SO, THEN ..

HE CAN'T COM-PLETE IT THAT WAY

URABE CERTAINLY WON'T

THAT'S JUST AS UNLIKELY

AND THE OTHER TWO WON'T MAKE ANY KANS, EITHER!

BUT ..

THEY CAN THEN DEAL THAT PEI THEY DRAW FROM THE DEAD WALL!

IF SOME-ONE ELSE MAKES A FEW KANS..

JUST IMPOS-SIBLE.

IT WOULD BE CAT-ASTRO-PHIC FOR THEM.

NO ONE WANTS TO GIVE AKAGI THE CHANCE TO SCORE ANY MORE DORA!

SO .

EVERYONE CAN SEE THAT AKAGI HAS 4 DORA, AND IS IN RIICHI ALREADY .

THAT PEI WILL NEVER LEAVE THE DEAD WALL!!

IT'S HOPELESS ...!

AKAGI ..!!

ざわ・・

ざわ・・

IT CAME TO SUCH A POINT WHERE, NOW, IN THE SOUTH THIRD ROUND, HE IS DOWN TO A MEASELY 900 POINTS.

THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH ROUNDS, AKAS PROCEEDED TO LOSE HIS POINT STICKS ONE BY ONE ...

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN URABE AND HE IS NOW A STAGGERING 70,500 POINTS!

THE ONE MAHJONG GAME WORTH 30 MILLION

THE STAND-OFF BET BETWEEN AKAGI AND URABE...

HIS CLOSED KAN WON OUT ON THE NEW DORA!

HE MAKES A DORA 4 HAND ...!

IN THIS CURRENT SOUTH THIRD ROUND,

BUT, SOME-HOW OR ANOTHER ...

IT IS A SEEM-INGLY HOPE-LESS DIFFER-ENCE...

AKAGI

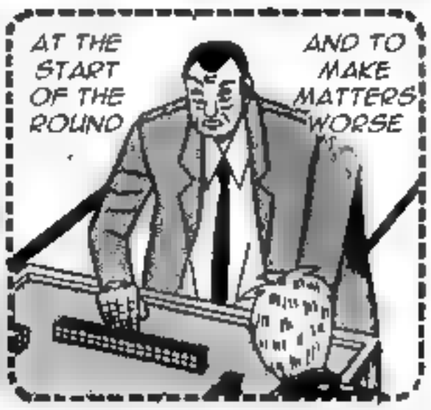
..

THE MIRACULOUS COMEBACK HE WAS GIVEN SEEMS ALL BUT LOST WITH THIS UNLIKELY RIICHI!

AND WITH IT, HE CALLS RIICHI UPON PLAYING THE 7-SOU!

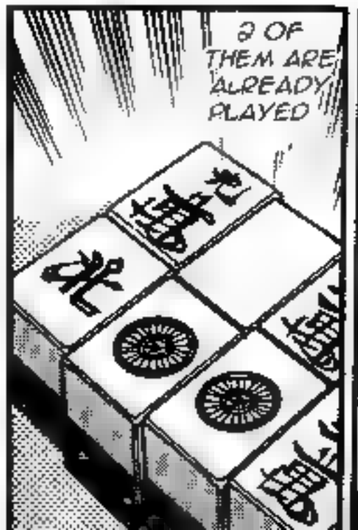
CHAPTER 44 —
RARE OPPORTUNITY

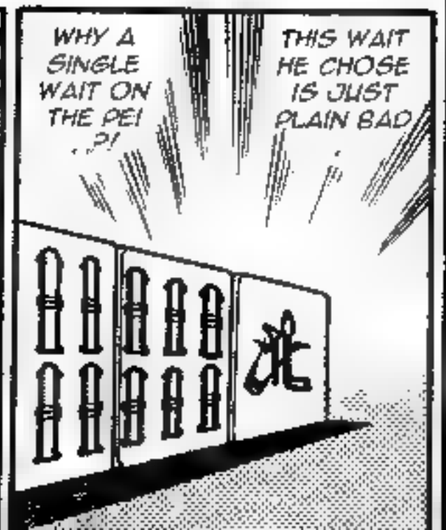
第44話 偶機



AT THE END OF IT ALL, THIS RIICHI THAT AKAGI MADE..
IT'S PLAIN TO SEE THAT THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO WAY FOR THAT TILE TO GET BACK IN PLAY!

YOU SHOULD TRY TO MAKE WINNING WITH YOUR RiCHi AS LIKELY AS POSSIBLE..
AND YET ..
BECAUSE OF THE OVER 70 THOUSAND POINTS IN DIFFERENCE





...IT'S EMPTY...
A USELESS RIICHI!

TRYING TO PREVENT US FROM COMPLETING IT

IN THAT CASE, HE MIGHT SUSPECT SOMETHING LIKE THE 3-SIDED WAIT WE HAD..

IS THE WEST PLAYER TRYING TO MAKE A QUICK WIN AGAIN?

.....

ON THE OTHER END, URABE..

THERE'S NO REAL RISK TO ANYONE HERE AT THIS POINT..

WELL.

IT'S USELESS TO THINK ABOUT THAT.

PON!

.....

NOTHING BUT SAFE TILES

SINCE AKAGI CALLED RIICHI, HE HASN'T BEEN DEALING ANY-THING ELSE

ANOTHER SAFE TILE..

……

カミヤッ…

TAKING THE DE-FENSIVE POSITION ..!

HE'S FOLDING ...

AND EVEN IF THERE WERE ANOTHER PEI TO BE DRAWN

EVEN IF WE'D KEPT THAT 3-SIDED WAIT FOR THE 5-7-8 SOU ..

……

HE DOESN'T EVEN NEED TO THINK.

PLAYING IT SAFE THE WHOLE WAY THROUGH

AN EASY GAME OF MAH-JONG.

URABE WON'T TAKE A SINGLE RISK IN THIS MATCH..

AND WHAT'S MORE

HE'LL ONLY PLAY TILES THAT HAVE NO CHANCE OF DEALING IN!

URABE WOULD STILL NEVER DEAL THE WINNING TILE!

IN TRUTH, URABE WAS HAVING A DIFFICULT TIME.

NO ...!

DUE TO THE FACT THAT HE CAN SEE THE OORA 4 INSTANT MANGAN CALL..

THE SUDDEN RIICHI ALMOST DOESN'T MATTER TO URABE.

AKAGI'S HAND SEEMS VERY OMINOUS TO HIM.

...CAN ONLY BE SEEN FROM THE OUTSIDE IN.

..AND EVERY-THING ELSE JUST MEN-TIONED.

SUCH A CONCEPT AS AN EASY GAME OF MAHJONG

EVERYTHIN'S BEEN GETTIN' WORSE SINCE THAT PUNK HIT A LUCKY STREAK

A COME-FROM-BEHIND VICTORY DOESN'T SEEM TOO FAR AWAY ..!

..I CAN'T GETTA HOLD OF HOW HE PLAYS !

THE THING IS THAT ... THIS MAN...

EVEN IF I TAKE EVERY STEP WITH CAUTION, THERE'S NO TELLIN' IF I CAN DODGE IT

.....

URABE REACHES TENPAI.

...

I DON'T GET THIS AT ALL.

JUST HOW MANY UNBELIEVABLE THINGS CAN HAPPEN TO ONE GUY, HUH?

IT'S FUCKIN' UN-CANNY

IT MATCHED UP EXACTLY WITH THE NEW DORA

I'LL BE BACK IN THE SUPERIOR POSITION AGAIN

BUT

IF I CAN SHAKE OFF ANY POTEN-TIAL FOR A COMEBACK

GOT IT

.....

DEALING THE 9-SOU MAKES THIS TENPAI

THERE'S NO POINT IN TAKIN' THIS TENPAI TO A WIN ..

THE REAL PROBLEM LIES AFTER

SO I'M SAFE FOR THE NEXT TURN, AT LEAST

THE GUY TO MY LEFT PLAYED THE 7-MAN A FEW TURNS AGO ..

SAFE TILE.

AND THAT CLOSED KAN..

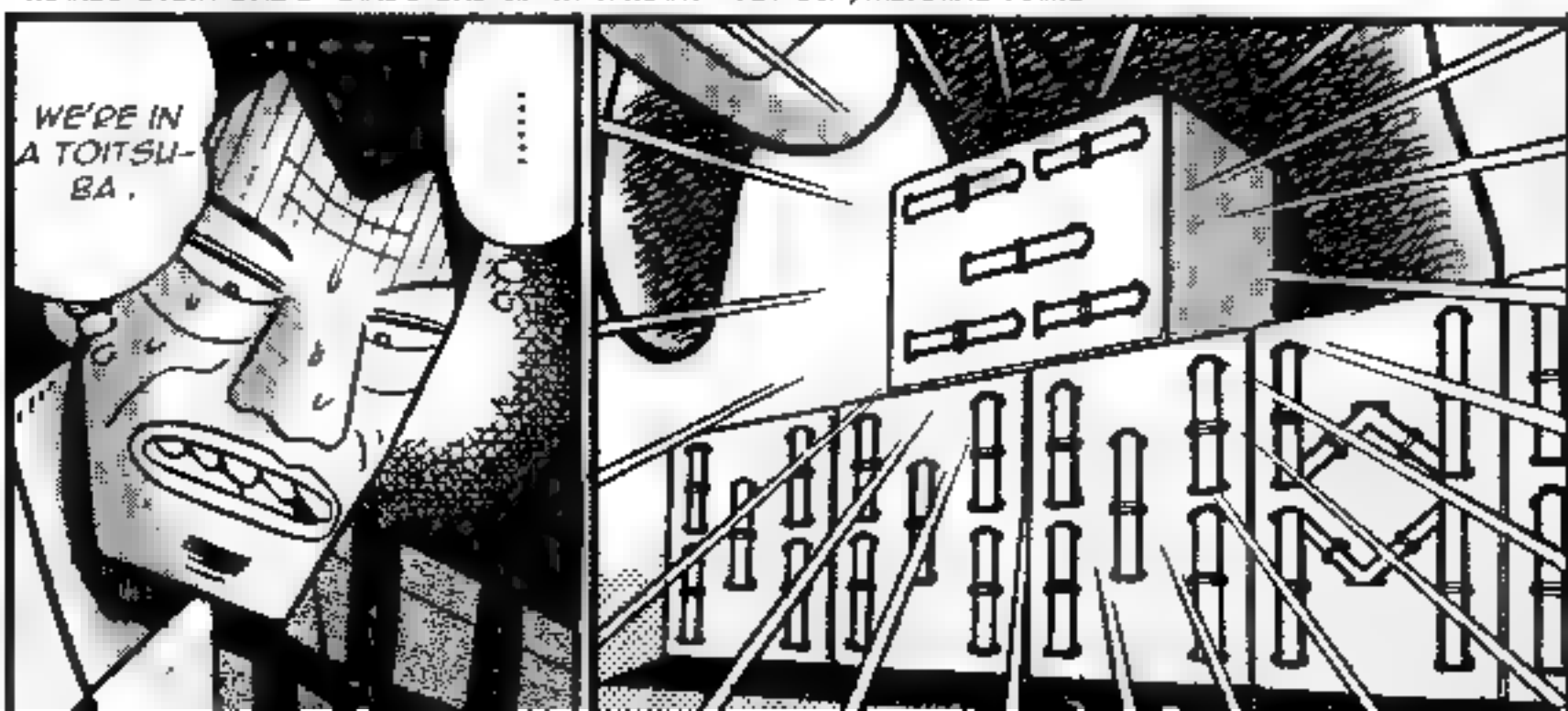
HE DID A KAN RIGHT BEFORE A RIICHI..

..IS THE SAME ONE WHO DID AN OPEN RIICHI WITH A SUU AN KOU.

'SIDES, THIS GUY.

IT'S GOIN' DOWNHILL FAST.

T/N. "TOITSU-BA" REFERS TO A ROUND IN WHICH MANY OF THE SAME TILES ARE GROUPED IN A WAY THAT MAKES EVERYONE'S HANDS END UP WITH MANY "TOITSU", MEANING PAIRS



WHEN THE URA-DORA ARE REVEALED

AND MORE THAN THAT .

HIS HAND COULD SKYROCKET ALL OF A SUDDEN!

IF HE HAS ONE OR TWO MORE ANKOU IN THERE

'TILL NOW, ALL THE GOOD TILES HAVE BEEN DRAWN TO HIM..

IT COULD BE A MONSTER.

I'VE GOTTA AVOID IT SOME-HOW!

I CAN'T LET IT COME TO THAT .

.....

URA-BE'S 16TH TURN

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS ..

URGH ../

四萬

八萬

8-SOU ...?!

DAM-MIT ...

URGH, I CAN'T DO IT

IF HE MADE A TSUMO AFTER THAT

WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW..

NOT GOOD AT ALL.

I'VE GOTTEN ALL FOUR OF TWO TILES..

SO MUCH FOR PLAYIN' IT SAFE

.....

I'VE ONLY GOT ONE MORE TURN LEFT!

THEN EVERY-THIN'S GOOD.

I'VE EN-DURED

ALL RIGHT ..

HEH-HEH ..

.....

DID IT PASS..?

.....

I NEED TO THINK ABOUT THAT, TOO..

THEN ALL I'LL'VE DONE IS GIVEN HIM ANOTHER OORA

AND IF I GET A RISKY DRAW

BUT THERE'S NO TELLIN' WHAT THAT DRAW WILL BE..

AND HOPE THAT THE TILE I GET IS SOME-THING I CAN DISCARD ..

I COULD CALL A KAN TO GET ANOTHER DRAW..

THIS IS THE END OF IT!!

ANOTHER TILE I CAN'T DEAL

WELL, NO BIG DEAL

NOW I'LL TAKE MY DEAD WALL DRAW..

...

KAN!

AND ANOTHER ONE!

ON THE 17TH TURN

I'VE GOT A SURE-FIRE WAY TO MAKE IT!

AT THE END OF IT ALL

BUT ·

ANOTHER RISKY TILE..

HUH ..?

KAN!

IT'S AN UNSTOPPABLE WAY TO WIN!

I GOT IT ON THE 16TH TURN BY CHANCE

HEH-HEH-HEH

WHAT IS THIS ...?!

WHA..

JUST THE TILE I WAS LOO-KIN' FOR!

THIS ONE!

NOW I'LL TAKE ONE MORE

THE DEAD WALL DRAW.

THIS IS THE COR-NERSTONE OF MY STRATEGY..!

AT THE START OF THE ROUND, EVERY-ONE SAW THIS TILE!

HEH-HEH-HEH...

THE PEI!

THIS PEI, THAT WAS LYING WAY OUTTA ANY-ONE'S REACH

'SIDES, THERE'S ALREADY TWO OF 'EM IN THE POND!

AKAGI SHOULD REMEMBER WHAT THAT TILE WAS...

FROM WHEN IT GOT FLIPPED OVER BY ACCIDENT

OH!

YOU FLIPPED OVER THE 12TH TILE

THAT MISTAKE SHOULD STAND OUT TO HIM

I'VE MADE IT SO HE WON'T GET ANOTHER DRAW!

AND WHAT'S MORE, BY CALLIN' KAN TWICE

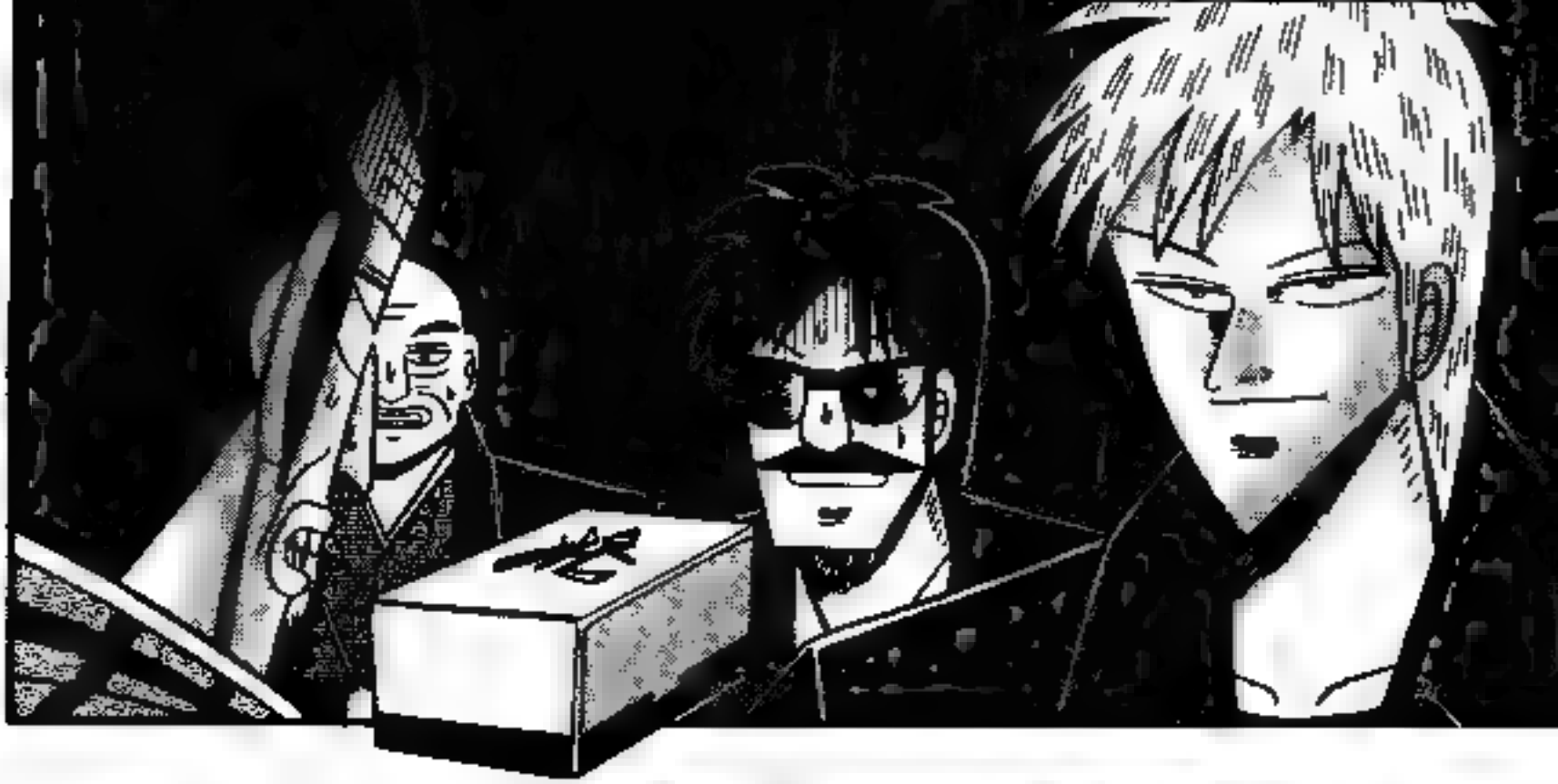
THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD BE WAITIN' FOR IT!

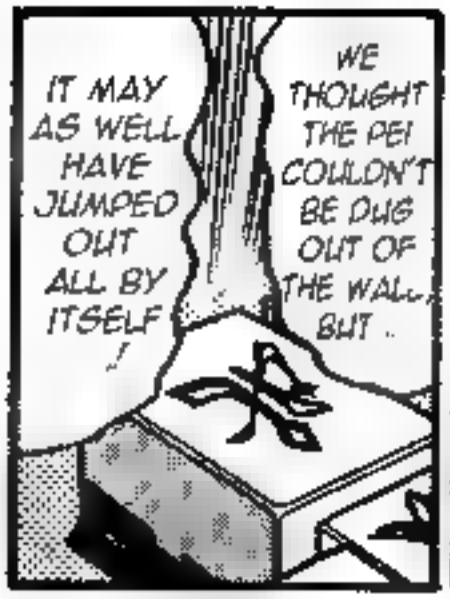
AND THIS PEI!

JUST WITH MY TWO KANS...

KILLIN' TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!

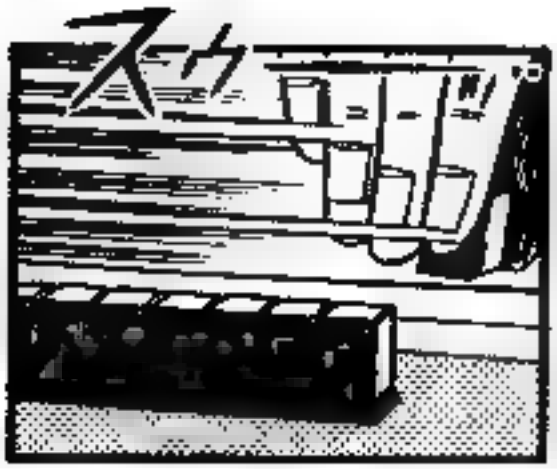
THE DEALER'S THE ONE WITH THE LAST DRAW NOW...




IT MAY AS WELL HAVE JUMPED OUT ALL BY ITSELF !
WE THOUGHT THE PEI COULDN'T BE DUG OUT OF THE WALL, BUT ..

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING .
NO WAY ..

UPSH ...!!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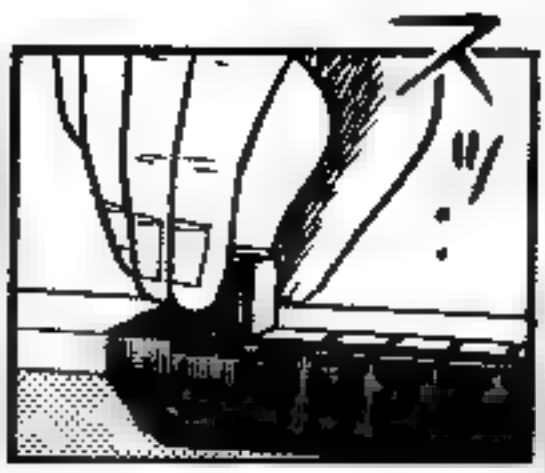


IS THIS WHAT AKAGI WAS PLANNING THIS WHOLE TIME..?!
HMM-HM-HM

WHA-
.?!

IM IMPOS-SIBLE...!

HMM-HM-HM ...

I'D GET STUCK AT THE KEYHOLE WITH JUST REASON AND REASON ALONE

SINCE IT'S LIKE THAT, SHEER REA-SON WON'T WORK ONE BIT

IF I DON'T USE A WHOLE-HEARTED STRATEGY

I'LL NEVER BREAK YOU OPEN

URABE, YOU'RE LIKE A WELL-SECURED PERSONAL SAFE AT THE MOMENT

I CAN FIND THE COMB-NATION AND OPEN THE SAFE

HE'S HELP-LESS WHEN THINGS HAPPEN WITHOUT REASON

THE FORCE OF CO NCI-DENCE

IN-DEED ..

TO PUT IT IN WORDS

ANOTHER .. FORCE ..?

I'D HAVE TO USE ANOTHER FORCE

IF I WANTED TO REALLY UNLOCK THE SAFE

... WITH THE HELP OF CO-INCIDENCE ...!

EVEN I WAS DRAWN INTO IT ..

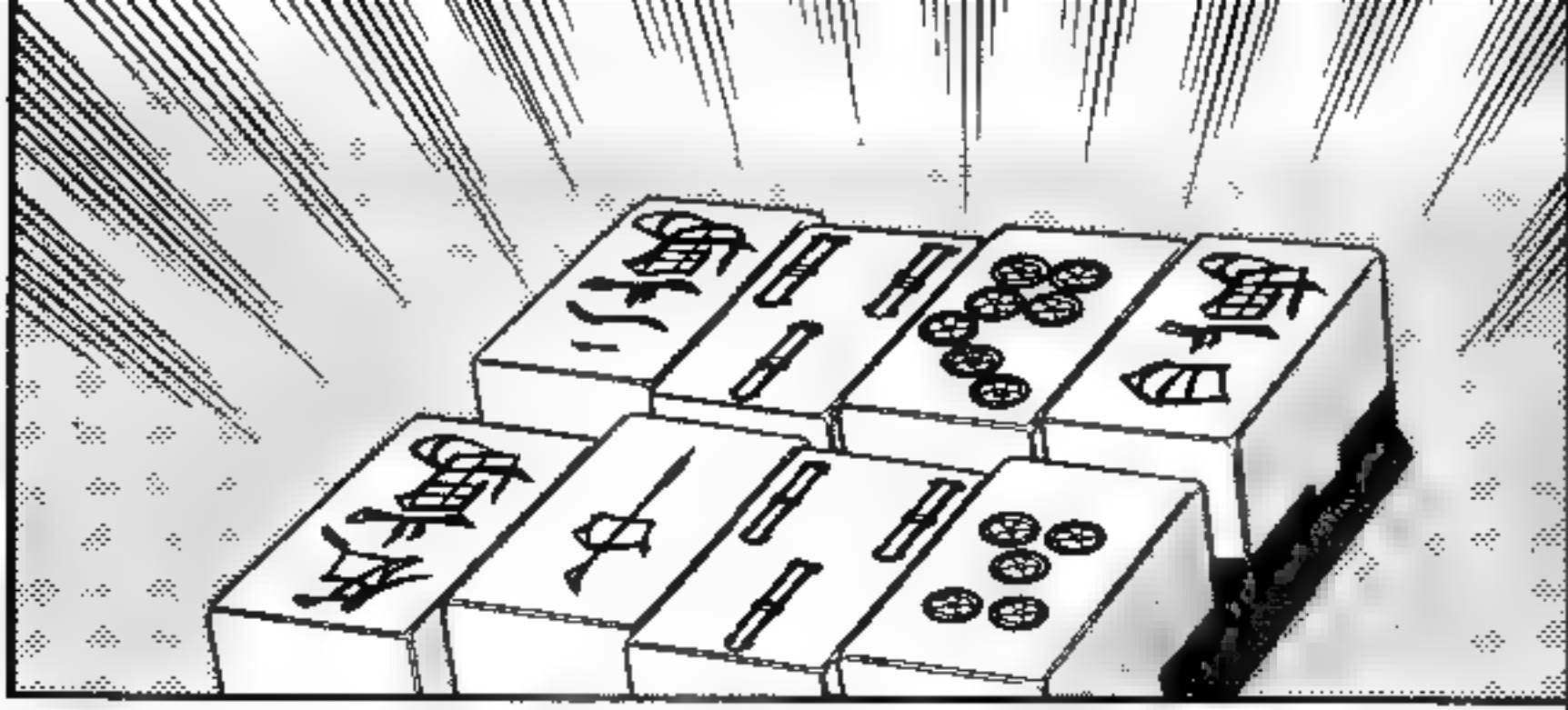
NOW FOR THE DORA ..

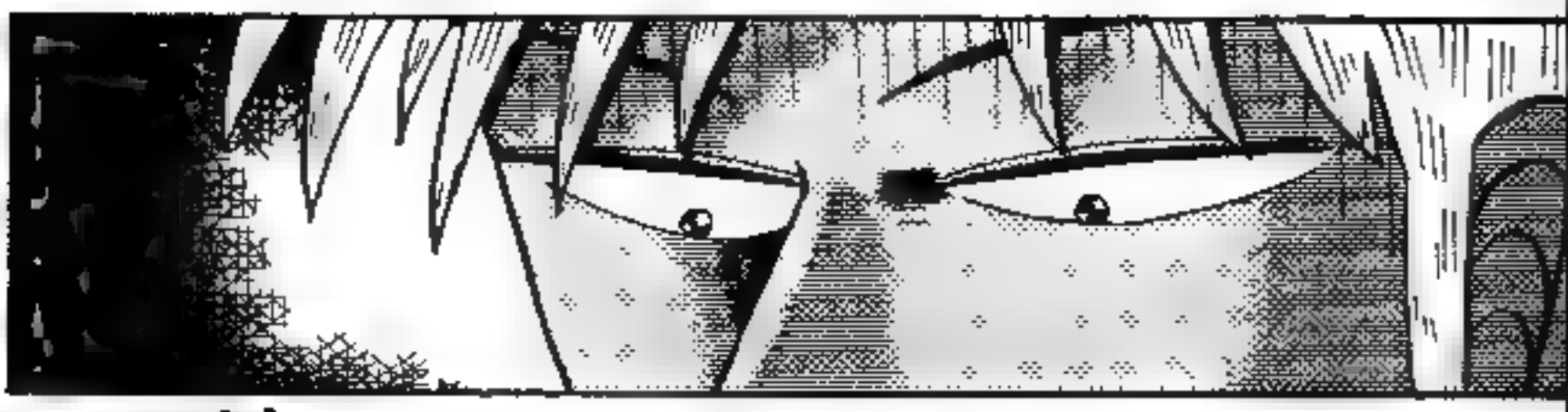
HIS UNPARALLELED CAPACITY ..!

AKAGI'S MAHJONG THAT PUTS CHANCE INTO THE EQUATION ..!

URABE'S HEAVILY DEFENSIVE PLAY .

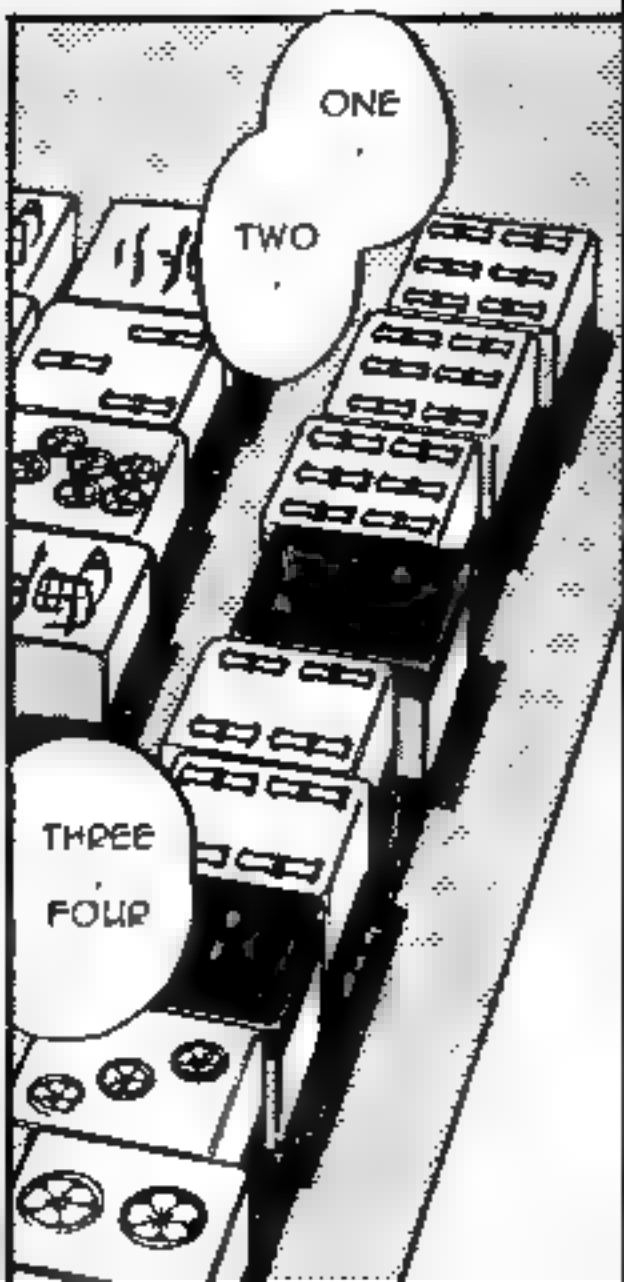
AND ALSO ..





GH
...!!

LOOKS LIKE THERE'S 10 DORA TOTAL.
TACK THE RICHI ONTO THAT.
...AND IT'S A SAN-BAI-MAN.


ONE
TWO
THREE
FOUR

THERE WERE TWO COIN-CIDEN-CÉS

.....

KH

AND URABE'S ABILITY TO MAKE TWO KANS...

THE THIRD DEAD WALL DRAW WAS SHOWN TO BE A PEI

THE FACT THAT AT THE START OF THE MATCH...

HE WAS WAITING FOR THE OPPOR-TUNITY OF COINCIDENCE!

TRU-LY..

AND THUS, MADE A PREDICTION THAT MANY KANS WOULD FORM!

HE RECOG-NIZED THE TOITSU-BA..

IN OTHER WORDS, RATHER THAN SIMPLY WAITING ON THE PEI..

OR EVEN GODLY

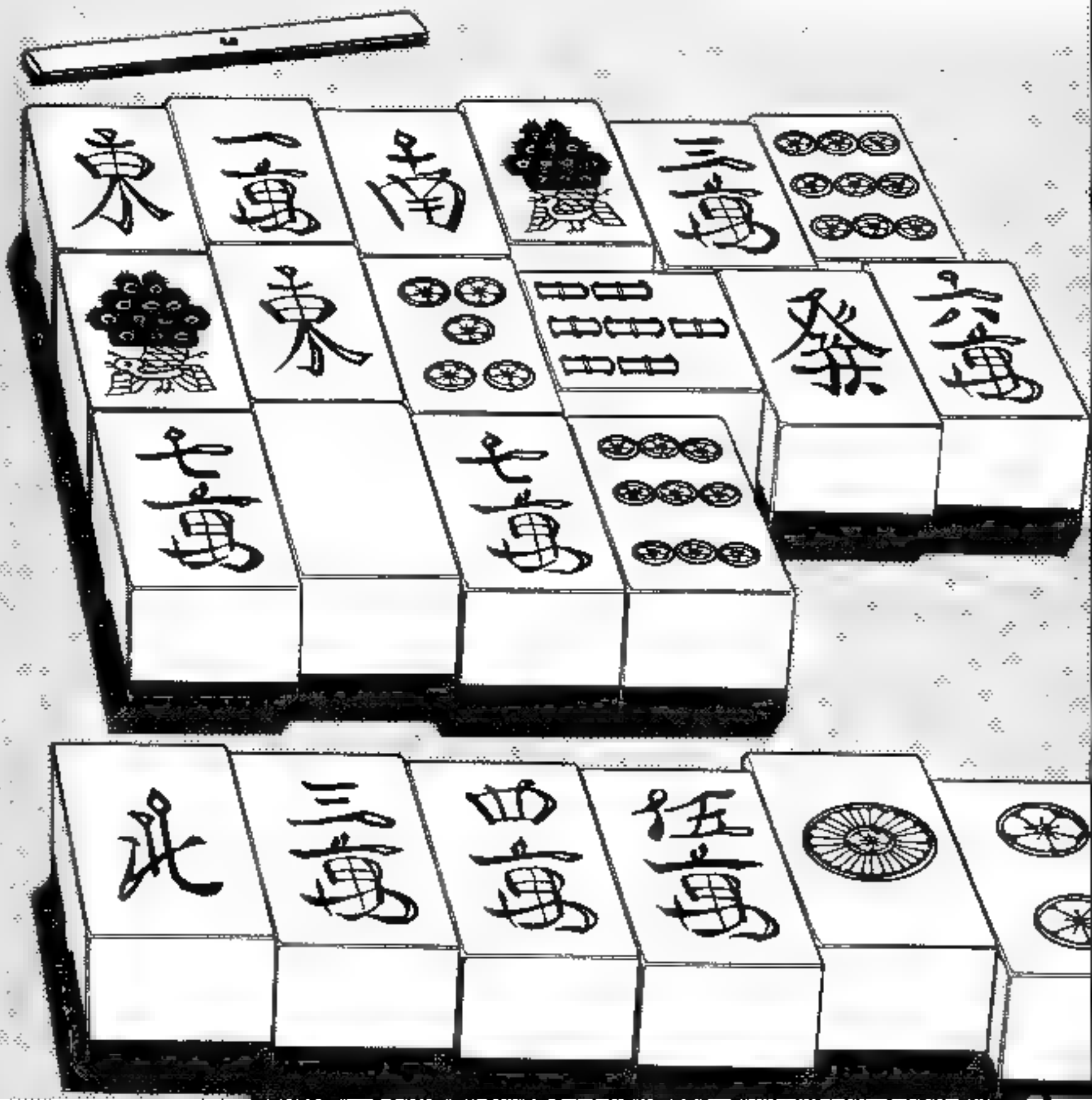
SHOULD IT BE CALLED KINGLY ..?

THIS STRA-TEGY IS WAY BE-YOND IMA-GINATION...

HUMANS CAN AVOID STRATEGIES INVOLVING REASON, BUT CANNOT DO THE SAME FOR THOSE INVOLVING CHANCE!

AN ATTACK FROM A WHOLE DIFFERENT DIMENSION...

AKAGI'S RIICHI, WITH A WAIT ON COINCIDENCE!



CHAPTER 45 - CAPACITY

第45話 容量

HE RECIEVED A DORA 10, WHICH COMBINED WITH HIS RIICHI, GAVE HIM A SANBAIMAN.

WITH ALL OF THE DORA IN HIS HAND COUNTED ...

THE DIFFERENCE WAS REDUCED BY 48,000 POINTS IN A SINGLE BLOW!

HE WAS ABLE TO GET A DIRECT HIT ON URABE.

DUE TO AKAGI'S VERY UNLIKELY SINGLE WAIT FOR THE PEI,

IF HE IS ABLE TO GET A MANGAN DIRECT HIT OFF OF HIM NOW,

AKAGI IS THE DEALER FOR THIS FINAL ROUND.

HE WILL HAVE COMPLETED HIS COMEBACK!

THE DIFFERENCE IS NOW DOWN TO 29,500.

URABE 47,400

AKAGI 24,900

WITH THIS WIN, THE POINT TOTALS HAVE BECOME.

TCH.

HE MANAGED TO SAVE HIMSELF FROM THE BRINK OF DESPAIR

BUT IN THE LAST ROUND, THE SOUTH THIRD ROUND,

MERE MOMENTS AGO, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO MEN HAD REACHED OVER 70,000 POINTS ...

HMM-HM-HM ...

AKAGI VS URABE

. . . .

HE IS DRAWING EVER CLOSER TO A MIRACULOUS RECOVERY!

ぶわ‥

ぺABE

THAT WIN DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHIN'

. DuNNO WHAT YOU'RE CON- CERNED W TH

IT'S JUST A ONE - TIME TH NG

DON'T WORRY YOUR- SELF

……

HE'S GETTING QUITE CLOSE TO CATCH NG UP

ARE YOU SURE THAT YOU CAN DO THIS ,?

I'VE GOT AT LEAST 1 OR 2 MORE HANDS TO MAKE A W N

HE'D NEED MORE'N THAT

HE CAN'T JUST TSUMO W TH A MAN- GAN.

HE WON'T BE MAKIN' HIS COME- BACK SO EASILY .

AND S NCE I WON'T,

I WON'T BE DEALIN' IN AGA N ANY T ME SOON...

IF HIS HANDS ARE WORTH 3900 OR 5800,

AND MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT, HE CAN'T RUSH TO GET A HAND.

HE'LL NEED A THIRD OR EVEN A FOURTH ARROW!

JUST ONE ARROW WON'T BE ENOUGH

IF HE WANTS TO CLIMB HIS WAY BACK UP TO THE TOP,

HE'LL NEED TWO ARROWS AT THE LEAST!

BY ONLY WINNING THE NEXT ROUND AND NOTHIN' ELSE,

EVEN IF HE CAN MAKE HIS HAND FASTER THAN ME,

HE WON'T BE ABLE TO OVERTAKE ME.

THAT'LL END THE GAME WITH ME ON TOP.

PIECE O' CAKE.

I CAN JUST WIN WITH ANY OL' HAND THAT COMES MY WAY

I'VE JUST GOTTA PROTECT MY LEAD

AND ON THE OTHER HAND,

I SEE.

.....

BEIN' ABLE TO PLAY BY THE BOOK...

HAVIN' THAT LEG UP IN THE LAST ROUND

THAT'S HUGE, YA GET ME?

OVER THERE, HE HAS TO CONCERN HIMSELF WITH HOW GOOD HIS HAND IS!

IN OTHER WORDS, ALL I NEED TO THINK ABOUT IS THE SPEED OF MY HAND!

DON'T LET YOURSELF GET WORRIED

KUMACHOU-HAN

HIS HANDICAP IS TOO BIG FOR HIM TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT STUFF

THAT CRAZY METHOD WON'T WORK ON US

IS SPOUTING SOME NONSENSE TO SCARE US, YA SEE?

THAT KID OVER THERE

I UNDERSTAND.

I'LL NEVER GIVE UP MY LEAD SO EASILY

HE'LL FALL ONE STEP SHORT'A ME FOR SURE.

I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.

YES-SIR!

I SHAN'T SAY ANYTHING MORE

SO, THEN ..

WELL, IF YOU SAY SO, URABE, IT MUST BE TRUE.

.....

HMM-HM-HM ...

I WON'T DEAL IN, NO MATTER WHAT!

YOU CAN'T EXPECT TO GET YOUR WAY EVERY DAMN TIME..

GET THAT INTO YOUR SKULL!

LITTLE BRAT ..

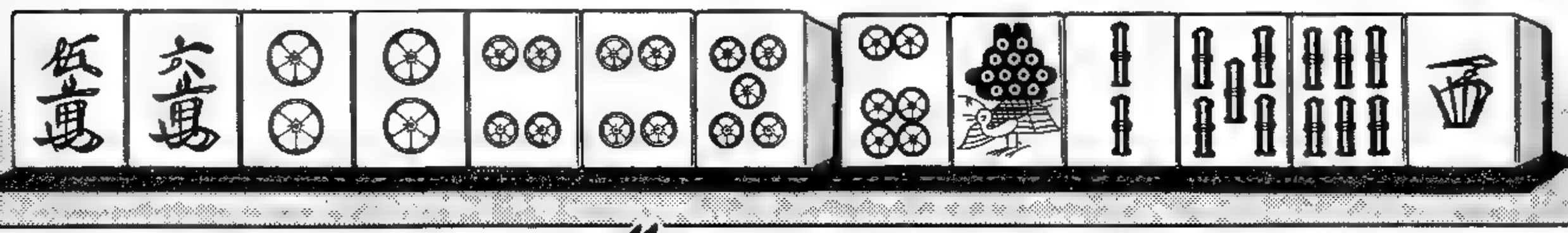
HMPH

.....

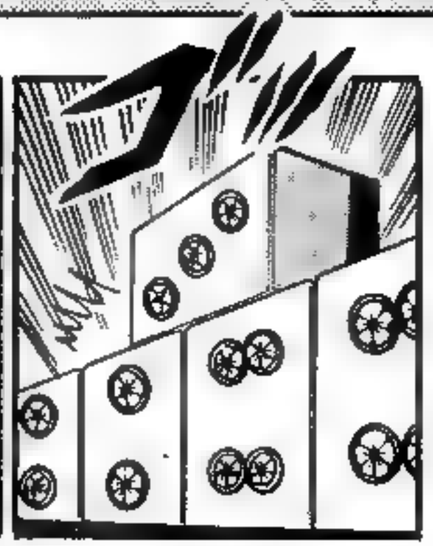
THE PLAY-ERS DRAW THEIR TILES ...

THE LAST ROUND

URABE'S STARTING HAND



GOOD!



THIS IS TRULY THE IDEAL SHAPE FOR WHERE I AM!

THIS SHAPE IS PLENTY! WINNING WITH JUST A TANYAO HAND IS PERFECT!

THIS IS E-NOUGH!

IN FACT, IT'S PRETTY GOOD!

NOT BAD AT ALL..

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, I'VE GOT THE FLOW ON MY SIDE!

THIS CAN WORK!

ALL RIGHT ...!

I'LL TAKE THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE PATH..

ALL I NEED TO FOCUS ON NOW IS MY SPEED!

AND GET THERE BEFORE ANYONE ELSE!

IT'S ALL ABOUT SPEED!!

GH..!

MAKE THIS DRUNKARD WAKE THE HELL UP!

I'LL PASS HIM UP IN THE RACE!

AH..!

TENPAI!

STYLE AND FLAIR ARE NOT NEEDED TO WIN GAMES!

GET READY FOR A LESSON!!

I'LL SHOW YOU

NOW GIVE IT TO ME

HUH...?

KAN.

A TRUE PRO ALWAYS WINS IN SILENCE!

NORMAL CUTS WITH A NORMAL HAND CAN GET YOU THERE JUST AS EASILY IN FACT, PROS LIKE MYSELF ALWAYS PLAY THAT WAY!!

AND AT THE BEST TIME TO GET IT!

A GREAT HAND!!!

EXCELLENT!

I'VE GOT A 2-5 PIN WAIT!

THE FLOW'S WITH ME FOR SURE!

IT'S THE IDEAL TANYAO, PINFU HAND!

THE NEW DORA INDI-CATOR ...

WHA ...?!

DORA 4?!

THE KAN HE JUST MADE IS ALL DORA TILES?!

THEN... THEN THAT MEANS ...

THE NEW DORA INDICATOR IS A 6-SOU...?

ざわ・・ざわ・・

HOW CAN HE BE SO LUCKY?!

HOW DOES THIS KEEP HAPPENING ...

DID HE CHEAT?

WHAT'S UP WITH THIS KID?!

.....

HMM-HM-HM ...

IF SO, IT'S JUST IMMEASURABLE...

HE'S GOT OTHER-WORLDLY LEVELS OF LUCK!!

DOES IT REALLY ALL COME DOWN TO DUMB LUCK

THEN ...

NO... HE FLIPPED OVER THE DORA INDICATOR WITH ONE FINGER ...

IT'S NOT POSSIBLE.

LOOKS LIKE I WON'T NEED A SECOND ARROW.

URABE ...

SO MUCH FOR THAT HANDICAP YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT ...

.....

HMM-HM-HM ...

I CAN SEND YOU TO YOUR UGLY GRAVE...

WITH JUST THIS FIRST ONE ...

HMM-HM-HM ...

AKAGI VOLUME 7 - FIN

アカギ6／完

近代麻雀コミックス
アカギ⑤

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